

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2010

**REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND
APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 11th March 2010 when Councillor Fazlul Haque and Councillor Salim Ullah each gave notice that they wish to be treated as members of the Respect Group on the Council for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act').
- 1.2 Consequent on this change the Council must review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the 1989 Act.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 overleaf be noted and the Council agree the allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
- 2.2 That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on the committees and panels affected by this change in accordance with the nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Assistant Chief Executive.
- 2.3 That the Council consider the appointment of Members to replace Councillor Fazlul Haque as Chair of the Audit Committee and Councillor Salim Ullah as Chair of the Appeals Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

3. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

3.1 Section 15(i) of the 1989 Act requires the Council as soon as practicable after a change in the political composition to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the committees/panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:

- (i) that all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
- (ii) that the majority of seats go to the political group with the majority on the Council;
- (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees/panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council; and
- (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee/panel of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.

3.2 Neither the Cabinet and its executive sub-groups; nor the Standards Committee are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

3.3 Following the change described in Paragraph 1 to this report, the political composition of the Council is now as follows:

Group	seats	%
Labour	30	58.82
Conservative	9	17.65
Respect	8	15.69
Liberal Democrat	4	7.84
Total	51	100.00

4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2008/09 are listed below. There are a total of 88 places on these committees and panels, which will now be allocated as follows:-

Labour: 52 places
Conservative: 15 places
Respect: 14 places
Liberal Democrat: 7 places

- 4.2 Applying the principles in the Act as closely as is reasonably practicable the proposed allocation of places on the committees and panels for the remainder of the municipal year is as follows:-

Committee	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Liberal Democrat
Appeals	9	5	2	2	-
Audit Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Development	9	6	1	1	1
General Purposes	7	4	1	2	-
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	1	1	1
Human Resources	7	4	1	2	-
Licensing	15	8	4	2	1
Overview & Scrutiny (plus 5 co-optees)	9	6	1	1	1
Pensions Committee	9	5	2	1	1
Strategic Development	9	6	1	1	1

- 4.3 The above allocation provides for the Respect Group to be allocated an additional seat (previously allocated to the Labour Group) on each of the Appeals, General Purposes and Human Resources committees, pursuant to the change in political composition of the Council.
- 4.4 Any nominations received from the political groups before the Council Meeting to appoint Members and/or deputies to the above committees/panels in accordance with the revised allocation of places will be tabled. The Constitution also provides for the Assistant Chief Executive subsequently to agree appointments to committees/panels in accordance with the nomination of the political group to which a position has been allocated by the Council.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- 5.1 Councillor Fazlul Haque was appointed by the Annual Council meeting in May 2009 as Chair of the Audit Committee, and Councillor Salim Ullah was appointed as Chair of the Appeals Committee.
- 5.2 Following the two Councillors' change of political group, the Council is asked to consider the appointment of a new Chair to each of these committees.

6. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

- 6.1 The legal position is set out in the main body of the report.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of background papers:	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice by Cllr A. Ali of a wish to be considered as a member of the Conservative Group, 22.2.10	John Williams x 4204, 1 st floor, Mulberry Place.