

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Monday 25th October, 2021</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services</p>	<p>Classification: Open (Unrestricted)</p>
<p>Proportionality and appointments to Scrutiny Sub-Committees</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	David Knight, Democratic Services Officer
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

This report follows the 12th August 2021 by-election, election of Councillor Kabir Ahmed and the subsequent creation of the new Aspire Group on the Council.

The meeting of Council on 30th September considered a report reviewing the proportionality calculations for the Council's Committees.

Following that review, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the proportionality implications for (i) Children & Education; (ii) Health & Adults Scrutiny; and (iii) Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committees.

Recommendations:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Agree to allocate one seat on each of the scrutiny sub-committee as below to either the Conservative Group or the Aspire Group:
 - (i) Children & Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
 - (ii) Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee; and
 - (iii) Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is required to review the proportionality of the (i) Children & Education; (ii) Health & Adults Scrutiny; and (iii) Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committees following a change in the political balance of the authority.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Committee could determine a different set of arrangements providing they met the requirements of the Council's proportionality calculations.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 Following Councillor Kabir Ahmed's election at a by-election on 12th August 2021, and the creation of the Aspire Group on the Council, there is a need to consider the proportionality calculations of the (i) Children & Education; (ii) Health & Adults Scrutiny; and (iii) Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committees.
- 3.2 Council considered the implications for the Council's Committees at its meeting on 30th September 2021. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee must now do the same for its Sub-Committees.
- 3.3 This small change in proportionality does not alter the overall proportions on the (i) Children & Education; (ii) Health & Adults Scrutiny; and (iii) Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committees which remain at 5 elected Members nominated by the Labour Group and one Member nominated by an opposition group. There are two opposition groups on the Council and both have two Members.
- 3.4 Therefore, the Committee is required to set out how it should be determined which of the two opposition groups on the Council should fill each sub-committee vacancy.
- 3.5 As there are three Sub-Committees it is not possible to allocate the same number of positions to each of the two opposition groups. Therefore, one group will have to be allocated membership of two sub-committees and the other group will be allocated a single sub-committee.
- 3.6 Should an indication of the opposition groups' preferred allocation be received before the meeting, this will be circulated as a supplement.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No specific implications to this report.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),

- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 No specific implications to this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 The legal considerations are set out in the main body of the report. At the Annual Meeting of Council on 19th May 2021, approval was given to the Director of Legal & Interim Monitoring Officer to approve appointments of Councillors in accordance with recommendations set out in the report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- Report on the Proportionality of the Council – 30 September 2021 (Council meeting)

Appendices

- None.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A