

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  <b>Wednesday, 20 November 2024</b>	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Linda Walker, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Open (Unrestricted)
<b>Proportionality and Allocation of Places on Committees of the Council 2024/25</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, (Head of Democratic Services)
<b>Wards affected</b>	(All Wards);

### Executive Summary

This report considers proportionality as required by section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act').

Two changes have occurred since the last meeting with Ungrouped Councillor Sabina Akhtar joining the Aspire Group and Councillor Jahed Choudhury leaving the Aspire Group and becoming an Ungrouped Councillor.

However, in proportionality terms this results in no overall change and so this report asks Council to note that the proportionality remains as set out in the supplement addendum taken at the last meeting.

### Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Note that the recent changes in political arrangements have not impacted the Council's proportionality calculations.
2. Note that delegations agreed at the previous Council meeting in relation to the Monitoring Officer making appointments to Committees are still valid.

### 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Changes to committee proportionality calculations are the responsibility of Council.

### 2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 None set out.

### 3. **DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

3.1 Following changes to the political composition of the authority, the next meeting of Council would usually be asked to agree new political proportionality calculations. However, the recent changes result in no change to the overall proportionality and so the calculations remain as set out at the last meeting, namely:

3.2 The political composition of the Council is therefore as follows:

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>SEATS (on Council)</b>	<b>PROPORTION ON COUNCIL</b>	<b>ENTITLEMENT (to seats on Committees)</b>
Aspire	21	46.67%	35.94 (36)
Labour	17	37.78%	29.09 (29)
Ungrouped	7	0*	12 (remainder)
	45		77

\* Ungrouped Councillors are not included in the proportionality calculation. As two Councillors are required to form a group the Conservative, Green and Independent Councillors are included in the 'ungrouped' designation above.

#### **Allocation of Places on Committees**

3.3 The allocation of places on Committees also therefore remains the same:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Aspire</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Ungrouped</b>
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	15	7	6	2
<b>Overview and Scrutiny (plus 2 co-optees)</b>	11	5	4	2
<b>Strategic Development Committee</b>	9	4	3	2
<b>General Purposes Committee</b>	9	4	3	2
<b>Audit Committee</b>	7	3	3	1
<b>Human Resources Committee</b>	7	4	3	

<b>Development Committee</b>	7	3	3	1
<b>Pensions Committee</b>	7	3	2	2
<b>Standards Advisory Committee (plus 5 co-optees)</b>	5	3	2	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>

- 3.4 Where appointments need to be made in between Council meetings, the Monitoring Officer has authority to agree these with the exception of cases where there are more ungrouped Member nominations than there are seats for ungrouped Members in which case Council will be asked to make a determination.
- 3.5 It is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree arrangements for its own sub-committees which are balanced as follows:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Aspire</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Ungrouped</b>
<b>Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b>	7	3	3	1

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None specific 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 Nil items.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 The principles of proportionality for allocation of places on committees are set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These principles require that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority. Further detailed rules for the allocation of seats on committees are set out in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
- 7.2 At the Annual Meeting of Council on 15 May 2024, approval was given to the Director of Legal & Interim Monitoring Officer to approve appointments of Councillors.
- 7.3 Part B, Section 24 (Functions of the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Chief Officers and Corporate Directors) authorises the Monitoring Officer to make appointments to the Council's Committees in line with agreed proportionality calculations as nominated by the Council's political groups.
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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- None

### **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