

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 22nd MAY 2013

**REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF
COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report reviews proportionality as required by section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act'), recommends the establishment of committees and panels in accordance with the Constitution and sets out the allocation of places on those committees and panels between the political groups represented on the Council.
- 1.2 The nominations from the groups and others for membership of the committees/panels in accordance with this allocation and other bodies not covered by the proportionality rules, will follow at the next agenda item.
- 1.3 Part 4 of the Constitution states that the Annual Council Meeting will establish an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, a Standards Advisory Committee and such other committees/panels as it considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor executive functions. Other bodies appointed by the Council are listed at Part 3 of the Constitution.
- 1.4 This report proposes no changes to the committee structure that was in place during 2012/13. The political composition of the Authority remains as at the last review of proportionality on 11th July 2012.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the review of proportionality be noted.
- 2.2 That committees and panels be established for the Municipal Year 2013/14, and places be allocated on those committees and panels, as set out at paragraph 4.2 overleaf.

3. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

- 3.1 Section 15(1) of the 1989 Act requires the Council at or as soon as practicable after the Annual Meeting 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 in relation to each body covered by the Act, all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
 - (ii) that the majority of seats on each body must 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 as that group's proportion of the seats 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 as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council.
- 3.2 Once the political groups have been allocated their places in accordance with the above rules, the Council may appoint ungrouped members to any remaining positions.
- 3.3 The Cabinet and any executive sub-groups of the Cabinet are not covered by the requirement for proportionality.
- 3.4 The political composition of the Council is currently as follows:

Group	seats	%
Labour	27	52.94
Conservative	7	13.73
Respect	2	3.92
(Ungrouped*)	15	
Total	51	

* NB: For the purposes of the 1989 Act an individual Councillor cannot constitute a political group. The 'ungrouped' category above therefore includes Councillor Stephanie Eaton (Liberal Democrat) as well as the fourteen 'independent' Councillors.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

- 4.1 In accordance with the Constitution it is recommended that the Council establish the committees and panels listed below for the municipal year 2013/14. These provide for a total of 91 committee/panel seats, which will be allocated to the political groups in proportion to their numbers on the full Council as follows:-

Labour:	51 places
Conservative:	13 places
Respect:	4 places

- 4.2 The remaining 23 places are available for ungrouped members. Applying the principles in the Act as closely as is reasonably practicable the proposed allocation of places on the committees and panels covered by the requirement for proportionality for the municipal year 2013/14 is as follows:-

	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Un- grouped
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	1	1	2
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	1		2
Appeals Committee	9	5	1		3
Audit Committee	7	4	1		2
Development Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Strategic Development Committee	9	5	2		2
General Purposes Committee	7	4	1		2
Human Resources Committee	7	4	1		2
Licensing Committee	15	8	2	1	4
Pensions Committee	7	4	1		2
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 7 co-optees)	7	4	1	1	1

- 4.3 Each political group has been invited to submit nominations to the positions allocated to that group and the 'ungrouped' Members have been invited to indicate their preferences for membership. A schedule of proposed appointments will be tabled at the Annual Council meeting.

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

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

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 6.1 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
--	---

- None