

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2014

**REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF
PLACES ON COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 6th March 2014 when Councillor Anwar Khan gave notice to the proper officer that for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act') he was no longer a member of the Labour Group on the Council but instead would serve as a 'Labour Independent' Councillor.
- 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.
- 1.3 The allocations are set out overleaf. Although the change above has reduced the percentage of Council seats held by the Labour Group, this has no effect on the allocation of places on committees etc, because the allocation of seats to the Labour Group is already at the minimum level to satisfy principle (ii) of the proportionality rules set out at paragraph 3.1 overleaf ('that the majority of seats on each body must go to the political group with the majority on the Council'). Similarly the Conservative and Respect Group allocations are unaffected.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 overleaf be noted and the Council agree the unchanged allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2013/14 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
- 2.2 That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on those committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Service Head, Democratic Services.

2.3 That the Service Head, Democratic Services be authorised to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council.

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 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 Neither the Cabinet nor any executive sub-groups are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

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

Group	seats	%
Labour	26	50.98
Conservative	7	13.73
Respect	2	3.92
(Ungrouped*)	16	
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), Councillor Anwar Khan (Labour Independent) as well as the fourteen 'independent' Councillors.

4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2013/14 are listed below. There are a total of 91 places on these committees and panels. Seats will continue to 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 remainder of the municipal year 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 is invited to submit nominations to the positions allocated to that group and the Constitution provides for the Service Head, Democratic Services then 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. LEGAL COMMENTS

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
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- None