

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 30th JULY 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 Following the delayed election in Blackwall and Cubitt Town Ward held on 3 July 2014, it is necessary to update the Council's allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act').
- 1.2 The allocations are set out overleaf. The result of the election increases the proportion of seats held by the Labour and Conservative Groups. However, no single group has the 23 seats necessary to form an overall majority on Council and committee seats are therefore allocated on a purely proportional basis.

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 2014/15 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.

3. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

- 3.1 Section 15(1) of the 1989 Act requires the Council at, or 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 where a political group has a majority of seats on the Council, the majority of seats on each body must go to that political group;
- (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.

3.3 In accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Councillors Dave Chesterton and Candidate Ronald have given notice of joining the Labour Group on the Council whilst Councillor Chris Chapman has given notice of joining the Conservative Group on the Council. Therefore the composition of the Council is as follows:-

Group	seats	%
Labour	22	48.9%
Tower Hamlets First	18	40.0%
Conservative	5	11.1%
Total	45	

4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES

4.1 The Council has established the committees and panels listed below for the municipal year 2014/15. 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:	45 places
Tower Hamlets First:	36 places
Conservative:	10 places

4.2 Applying the principles at paragraph 3.2 above 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 2014/15 (or until the next review of proportionality, whichever is sooner) is as follows:-

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

4.3 Each political group has been invited to submit nominations for the places allocated to that group.

4.4 Neither the Cabinet and any executive sub-groups of the Cabinet; nor the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

5. CONSERVATIVE GROUP APPOINTMENT

5.1 The Council is advised that following the election of councillors to represent Blackwall & Cubitt Town Ward on 3rd July 2014, the Conservative Group has notified the appointment of Councillor Chris Chapman as that group's Deputy Leader ('specified representative' for the purposes of Regulation 8(5) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

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
--	---

- None