

# **LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

## **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2015**

### **REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL – REVISED REPORT**

#### **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 as set out in the Council's constitution and proposes the allocation of places on those committees and panels between the political groups represented on the Authority.
- 1.2 The nominations from the groups for membership of those committees and panels in accordance with the allocation of places; and certain other bodies not covered by the proportionality rules, will follow at the next agenda item.
- 1.3 Part 4.1 of the constitution states that the Annual Council Meeting will establish an Overview & Scrutiny Committee and such other committees/panels as it considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither Executive Functions nor reserved to the Council. The committees, panels and other bodies appointed by the Council are listed at Part 3.3 of the constitution.
- 1.4 The Council will note that a further review of proportionality will be required in due course following the forthcoming election on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to fill the vacancy for a councillor to represent Stepney Green ward.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Council note the review of proportionality as at section 3 of the report overleaf.
- 2.2 That committees and panels be established for the Municipal Year 2015/16, and places be allocated on those committees and panels, as set out at paragraph 4.2 overleaf.

### 3. BACKGROUND AND 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 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 membership of 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 membership of the full Council.

3.2 A change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 when the Election Court declared vacant the offices of Mayor of Tower Hamlets and a councillor for Stepney Green ward.

3.3 A further change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 when members of the Tower Hamlets First group on the Council gave notice in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 that for the purposes of Regulation 8(5) of those Regulations they wish to change the name of the political group to '**Independent Group**' with immediate effect. 16 Councillors gave notice that they wish to be treated as members of the Independent Group.

3.4 Councillor Rabina Khan has not given notice that she is a member of the Independent Group and will serve as an independent (ungrouped) councillor.

3.5 Pending the elections to the positions of Mayor of Tower Hamlets and a councillor for Stepney Green ward on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015, the political composition of the authority is therefore as follows:-

Group	seats	%
Labour	22	50.0%
Independent Group	16	36.4%
Conservative	5	11.4%
Ungrouped	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	

#### 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

4.1 The Council is recommended to re-establish the committees and panels listed below for the municipal year 2015/16. These provide for a total of 91 committee/panel seats which will, pending any further review of proportionality, be allocated to the political groups in proportion to their numbers on the full Council as follows:-

Labour:	46 places
Tower Hamlets First:	33 places
Conservative:	10 places

This represents a net increase of one committee place in the Labour Group allocation and a net decrease of three places in the Tower Hamlets Group allocation. It is open to the Council to appoint an ungrouped councillor to the remaining two unfilled places.

4.2 Applying the principles at paragraph 3.1 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 2015/16 (or until the next review of proportionality, whichever is sooner) is as follows:-

Committee/panel	Total	Labour	Tower Hamlets First	Conservative
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	3	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	2	1
Appeals Committee (1 vacancy)	9	4	3	1
Audit Committee	7	3	3	1
Development Committee	7	3	3	1
Strategic Development Committee	9	5	3	1
General Purposes Committee (1 vacancy)	7	3	2	1
Human Resources Committee	7	4	2	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. A schedule of proposed appointments will be tabled at the Annual Council Meeting.

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. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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 implications arising from this report.

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972, AS AMENDED  
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Brief description of "background paper"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
None.	