

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE 2015

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 has occurred following the Stepney Green election on 11th June 2015 when Councillor Sabina Akhtar was elected. The Labour Group have given notice to the proper officer that for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act') that Councillor Sabina Akhtar is a member of the Labour Group. In the same manner, the Independent Group have given notice that Councillor Rabina Khan is now a member of their group.
- 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.
- 1.4 The proposed new allocations are set out overleaf. In particular, the Labour Group now have a majority of Councillors on the Council and in line with the legislation they must be allocated a majority of seats on each Committee.

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 2015/16 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
- 2.2 To note that Member and deputy appointments to serve on those committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups will be considered at Agenda Item 9 'Appointments to Committees and Panels'.

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 and any executive sub-groups of the Cabinet; nor the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

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

Group	seats	%
Labour	23	51.1%
Independent Group	17	37.8%
Conservative	5	11.1%
Total	45	

4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2015/16 are listed below. There are a total of 91 places on these committees and panels. Seats should now be allocated to the political groups in proportion to their numbers on the full Council as follows:-

Labour: 47 places (46.501)
 Independent Group: 34 places (34.398)
 Conservative: 10 places (10.101)

4.2 Applying the principles in the Act as closely as is reasonably practicable, taking allowance of Rule 3.1 (ii) which allocates a majority of seats on each Committee to the majority group on the Council, 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:-

Committee/panel	Total	Labour	Independent Group	Conservative
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	3	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	2	1
Appeals Committee	9	5	4	-
Audit Committee	7	4	2	1
Development Committee	7	4	2	1
Strategic Development Committee	9	5	3	1
General Purposes Committee	7	4	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	4	2	1
TOTALS	91	51	31	9

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.

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 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