

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY 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 occurred on 25th June 2015 when Councillor Abjol Miah gave notice to the proper officer that for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act') he is no longer a member of the Independent 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. The proposed new committee allocations are set out at paragraph 4.1 overleaf.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council note the review of proportionality as at section 3 of the report overleaf and agree the allocation of seats on committees and panels for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2015/16 as set out at paragraph 4.1.
- 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 single ungrouped Councillor be appointed to the vacant position on the Appeals Committee remaining after the allocation of places to the political groups.

3. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

- 3.1 Section 15(1) 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 (if any);
 - (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 1.1 to this report, the political composition of the Council is now as follows:

Group	seats	%
Labour	23	51.1%
Independent Group	16	35.6%
Conservative	5	11.1%
Ungrouped	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. Applying the principles in the 1989 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 or until the next review of proportionality, whichever is sooner, 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 (1 vacancy)	9	5	3	-
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	30	9

4.3 This represents a decrease of one committee place in the Independent Group's allocation. The allocations to the Labour and Conservative groups are unaffected. It is open to the Council to appoint an ungrouped councillor to the remaining unfilled place on the Appeals Committee.

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