

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>COUNCIL</b>  Wednesday 20 January 2016	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Law, Probity and Governance	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council 2015/16	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## Summary

A change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 when Councillors Shahed Ali, Shafiqul Hoque and Ohid Ahmed gave notice to the proper officer that for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act') they no longer are members of the Independent Group.

Consequent to 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 4.2 overleaf.

## Recommendations:

That Council agrees:

- a) The review of proportionality as at section 3 of this report overleaf and agrees the allocation of seats on committees and panels for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2015/16 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
- b) The committees and panels established for the municipal year 2015/16 as listed in paragraph 4.2 with a recommendation that the total number of places on these committees and panels be reduced from 91 to 90 by reducing the Strategic Development Committee from 9 to 8 seats.
- c) 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 Director, Law, Probity and Governance.
- d) The Director, Law, Probity and Governance 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.

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 A change in the political composition of the Council occurring between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The Council is required to review its proportionality.

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

### **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	PROPORTION ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT
Labour	23	57.5%	51.75 (52)
Independent Group	12	30%	27.00 (27)
Conservative	5	12.5%	11.25 (11)
Ungrouped	5	0*	0
	45	100%	90

\* According to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 15, proportions on Council are only allocated to Political Groups (see Section 3.1 above)

- Based upon the calculations above in the 'Entitlement' column, the numbers have been 'rounded' for each Political Group and give a total of 90.

#### 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 is a recommended total of 90 places on these committees and panels.

4.2 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 (5)	3 (3)	1 (1)
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4 (4)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Appeals Committee	9	5 (5)	3 (3)	1 (1)
Audit Committee	7	4 (4)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Development Committee	7	4 (4)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Strategic Development Committee	<b>8(9)</b>	5 (5)	<b>2 (3)</b>	1 (1)
General Purposes Committee	7	4 (4)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Human Resources Committee	7	4 (4)	2 (2)	1 (1)
Licensing Committee	15	<b>9 (8)</b>	<b>5 (6)</b>	1 (1)
Pensions Committee*	7	4 (4)	<b>2 (3)</b>	<b>1 (0)</b>
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 7 co-optees)	7	4 (4)	2 (2)	1 (1)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>90 (91)</b>	<b>52 (51)</b>	<b>27 (30)</b>	<b>11 (10)</b>

**Note:** The current allocation is shown in brackets with the proposed changes in bold.

4.3 The above will result in the allocation of all committee places amongst the political groups in accordance with the rules set out in the 1989 Act.

4.4 For reference purposes a schedule detailing the political proportions on Committees of various sizes is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

5.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

## **6. LEGAL COMMENTS**

6.1 The legal position is set out in the main body of the report.

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### **Appendices**

- None.