


Non-Executive Report of the: Council Wednesday 17 January 2018	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council 2017/18	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

A change in the political composition of the Council has occurred recently with Councillor Abjol Miah joining the People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets Group having formally been Independent (Ungrouped).

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:

Council is recommended to:

1. Consider the review of proportionality as at section 3 of this report overleaf and agree the allocation of seats on committees and panels for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2017/18 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
2. Note the committees and panels established for the municipal year 2017/18 as listed in paragraph 4.2 as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2017.
3. Agree 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 Corporate Director, Governance.
4. The Corporate Director, 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 Changes to the political composition of the Council require a review of the proportionality calculations for the Council's Committees.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 No alternative options.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 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 the Executive Summary to this report, the political composition of the Council is now as follows:

GROUP	SEATS (on Council)	PROPORTION ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT (to seats on Committees)
Labour	22	48.89%	33.73 (34)
Independent Group	10	22.22%	15.33 (15)
People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets	6	13.33%	9.20 (9)
Conservative	5	11.11%	7.67 (8)
Ungrouped	2	0*	3 (remainder)
	45		69

* Ungrouped Councillors are not included in the proportionality calculation. As two Councillors are required to form a group the Liberal Democrat Councillor is included in the 'ungrouped' designation above.

4. Allocation of Places on Committees

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2017/18 are listed below. There is a recommended total of 69 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	People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets	Conservative	Ungrouped
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	2	1	1	
Audit Committee	7	3	1	2	1	<u>1</u>
Development Committee	7	4	2	0	1	
Strategic Development Committee	8	4	2	1	1	
General Purposes Committee	9	5	2	1	1	
Licensing Committee	15	7	3	2	1	2
Pensions Committee	7	3	1	1	1	1
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 7 co-optees)	7	3	2	1	1	
TOTALS	69	34	15	9	8	3

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. The change from the last report is shown in bold/underlined.

4.4 It is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree arrangements for its own Sub-Committees. However, this change will not result in any changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee proportionality calculations.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

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

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1 The legal considerations are set out in the main body of the report.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 None specific to this report.

8. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None specific to this report.

9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 None specific to this report.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None specific to this report.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None specific to this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- None

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A