


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Wednesday 20 February 2019</p>	
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council</p>	

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

Executive Summary

A change in the political composition of the Council has occurred recently with the election of Councillors Rajib Ahmed (Labour) and Harun Miah (Aspire) to the Council following by-elections held on Thursday 7 February 2019.

Consequent to this change, the Council must review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. The proposed new committee allocations are set out at paragraph 3.6 overleaf.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Consider the review of proportionality as at section 3 of this report and agree the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2018/19 as set out at paragraph 3.6.
2. Note the Committees set out for the municipal year 2018/19 listed in paragraph 3.6 as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 23 May 2018.
3. Agree any changes to the memberships (and substitutes) of those Committees as submitted to Council for approval.
4. Agree that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to approve the appointment of Councillors required to fill positions that fall vacant during the municipal year in line with the proportionality arrangements set out in this report.
5. Agree that the Monitoring Officer 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 Council could determine a different arrangement of Committees to perform the required decision making and scrutiny functions.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

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

3.4 The political composition of the Council is as follows:

GROUP	SEATS (on Council)	PROPORTION ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT (to seats on Committees)
Labour	41	91.11%	65.60 (66)
Conservative	2	4.44%	3.20 (3)
Ungrouped	2	0*	3 (remainder)
	45		72

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

Allocation of Places on Committees

3.5 According to the above calculation the Labour Group would be entitled to 66 seats on these Committees, with the Conservative Group receiving 3 and a remainder of three which would be available for the ungrouped Councillors. However, as set out in Paragraph 3.1(i) above, no group can be allocated all the seats on a specific Committee. The allocations have been adjusted to meet that rule. Therefore the Labour Group has been allocated 64 seats. The two seats left over have been allocated to the Conservative Group as the other political group in the proportionality calculations.

3.6 Applying the above principles, the proposed allocation of places on the Committees established by the Council for the municipal year 2018/19 and covered by the requirement for proportionality, are listed below. The allocations for the remainder of the municipal year or until the next review of proportionality, whichever is the sooner, is as follows:

Committee	Total	Labour	Conservative	Ungrouped
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	11	10	1	
Audit Committee	8	7	1	
Development Committee	7	6	1	1
Strategic Development Committee	8	7		1
General Purposes Committee	9	8	1	
Licensing Committee	15	14	1	
Pensions Committee	7	6	1	
Standards (Advisory) Committee (plus 5 Co-optees)	7	6		1
TOTALS	72	64	5	3

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 It is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree arrangements for its own sub-committees. However, the expected Sub-Committee arrangements and memberships remain the same and are set out below.

Committee	Total	Labour	Conservative
Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee	6	5	1
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee	6	5	1
Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee	6	5	1

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The purpose of the report is to ensure all political groups receive an appropriate allocation of Non-Executive Committee seats.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.

- 5.2 None specific to this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The legal considerations are set out in the main body of the 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

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A