



General Purposes Committee

Tuesday 30 May 2017 at 6.00 pm

Members' Suite - 4th Floor, Brent Civic Centre,
Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

Butt (Chair)
McLennan (Vice-Chair)
Colwill
Farah
Hirani
M Patel
Southwood
Tatler

Substitute Members

Councillors:

Aden, Denselow, Kabir, Mahmood, Miller, Moher and
Krupa Sheth

Councillors:

Davidson and Kansagra

For further information contact: Nikolay Manov, Governance Officer
020 8937 1348, nikolay.manov@brent.gov.uk

For electronic copies of minutes, reports and agendas, and to be alerted when the minutes of this meeting have been published visit:
democracy.brent.gov.uk

The press and public are welcome to attend this meeting.

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
1 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members	
2 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests Members are invited to declare at this stage of the meeting, any relevant personal and prejudicial interests and discloseable pecuniary interests in any matter to be considered at this meeting.	
3 Minutes of the special meeting, held on 8 May 2017	1 - 4
4 Matters arising	
5 Deputations (if any)	
6 Review of Representation of Political Groups and Appointments At its meeting on 17 May 2017 Full Council reviewed and determined the representation of political groups on its main committees and subsequently made appointments in accordance with the wishes of the political groups concerned. As soon as practicable after such a review, this committee is required to review and determine the representation of political groups on its sub-committees and then make appointments giving effect to the wishes of the political groups allocated seats.	5 - 8
Wards Affected:	Contact Officer: Debra Norman, Interim Chief Legal Officer Tel: 020 8937 1578 debra.norman@brent.gov.uk
7 Appointments to Sub-Committees / Outside Bodies	
8 Any other urgent business Notice of items to be raised under this heading must be given in writing to the Head of Executive and Member Services or his representative before the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 64.	



- Please remember to set your mobile phone to silent during the meeting.
- The meeting room is accessible by lift and seats will be provided for members of the public.



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Monday 8 May 2017 at 5.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Butt (Chair), Councillor McLennan (Vice-Chair), Hirani, Southwood and Tatler

1. **Apologies of Absence (if any)**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor M Patel.

2. **Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests**

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 23 February 2017, be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Deputations (if any)**

There were no deputations received.

6. **Review of Polling Places 2017**

Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council, asked Thomas Cattermole (Head of Executive and Member Services) to introduce the report outlining the polling station arrangements put in place for the General Election on 8 June 2017. Mr Cattermole explained that the review was originally due to take place in 2018, but as a result of the General Election called on 18 April 2017 and urgent review had to be undertaken.

In response to Members' questions related to polling stations NAL2 (Alperton ward) and CDU1 (Dudden Hill ward), Mr Cattermole explained that it would be possible to make St. Catherine's Church, Dudden Hill lane, NW10 1QB the permanent venue for polling station CDU1, which would save money as the Church would be used for a double station. He said that Brent was still in negotiations regarding parking arrangements near polling station NAL2. Mr Cattermole informed the Committee that he had received two emails expressing concerns about the use of the Pakistan Community Centre as a polling station. He highlighted that the venue had been

used since 2014 and no issues had been raised. A possible alternative could be a hut on a nearby road which would be more disruptive to voters and local residents.

A Member of the Committee asked a question relating to the placing of a polling station at Northwick Park Hospital. Carolyn Downs (Chief Executive) said that the last time this had been done a small number of residents had cast their vote there. In the subsequent discussion, Melanie Adams (Electoral Registration and Services Manager) said that the cost for hiring a venue to be used as a polling station ranged between £100 and £1000. In response, a Member of the Committee suggested that voting by post should be promoted for the next election. Due to the proximity of the General Election and poll cards already sent out, it was decided to monitor turnout at the station in 2017 and include that station in the next review of polling places.

Mr Cattermole drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 3.6 on page 7 to the Agenda pack. He said that various options had been examined in relation to polling station NKE4 (Kenton ward) and it had been decided that it would be best to use Harrow District Masonic Centre which had allowed Brent Council to set up two temporary stations in their car park free of charge.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The polling stations listed below be adopted as temporary polling stations for the General Election on 8 June 2017:
 - NAL2: Alperton Baptist Church Hall be relocated to Alperton Community School, Ealing Road, HA0 4PW.
 - CDU1: Christ Embassy be relocated to St Catherine's Church, Dudden Hill Lane, NW10 1QB.
 - HKI4: The Royal British Legion be relocated to the OK Club, 45 Denmark Road, NW6 5BP.
 - NKE4: The Haridham Temple be relocated to temporary polling stations in the Harrow District Masonic Centre car park, Northwick Circle, HA3 0EL.
- (ii) All other polling stations remain unchanged for this poll and until and the next statutory review of polling districts and polling places in 2018/19.
- (iii) In the event of any other polling places becoming unavailable before the June 2017 election, authority be delegated to the Acting Returning Officer to make any further changes required to polling places for these elections in consultation with the leaders of the political groups on the Council.

7. Appointments to Sub-Committees / Outside Bodies (if any)

There were no appointments made to Sub-Committees and Outside Bodies.

8. **Any other urgent business**

There were no other items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 5:15 pm.

COUNCILLOR MUHAMMED BUTT
Chair

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 Brent	General Purposes Committee 30 May 2017 Report from the Chief Legal Officer
For Action Wards Affected: ALL	
Review of Representation of Political Groups and Appointments	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 17 May 2017 Full Council reviewed and determined the representation of political groups on its main committees and subsequently made appointments in accordance with the wishes of the political groups concerned. As soon as practicable after such a review, this committee is required to review and determine the representation of political groups on its sub-committees and then make appointments giving effect to the wishes of the political groups allocated seats.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Agree the size of the three sub-committees;
- 2.2 Agree the allocation of seats to political groups on the three sub-committees in accordance with political balance rules; and
- 2.3 Appoint chairs and vice-chairs, members and substitutes to the three sub-committees.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 At its meeting on 17 May 2017 Full Council reviewed and determined the representation of political groups on its main committees and subsequently made appointments in accordance with the wishes of the political groups concerned.

- 3.2 As this Committee has three sub-committees, it has a statutory duty to review and determine the representation of political groups on its sub-committees as soon as practicable after Full Council's review. The Committee then has a duty to make appointments to the sub-committees giving effect to the wishes of the political group allocated seats.
- 3.3 The allocation of seats is determined by applying the political balance principles prescribed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and supplemented by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. These principles are set out below and are designed to ensure that the political composition of committees and sub-committees, as far as reasonably practicable, replicate the political composition of Full Council.
- 3.4 The political balance principles are:
- (i) That not all the seats on the sub-committee are allocated to the same political group.
 - (ii) That the majority of the seats on the sub-committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership.
 - (iii) Subject to paragraphs (i) and to (ii) above, that the number of the seats on the sub-committee which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that sub-committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.
- 3.5 The current membership of the Council is 63 members consisting of 56 Labour Group councillors; 4 Conservative Group councillors; 2 Brent Conservative Group councillors and 1 independent councillor. There have been no changes since the Committee's previous review in December 2016.
- 3.6 The application of the principles listed above results in the following allocation of seats:

Committee	Sub Committee	Size of Sub-Cttee	Labour (88.88%)	Conservative (6.35%)	Brent Conservative (3.17%)
General Purposes	Pension Fund Sub-Committee	7	6	1	0
	Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee	5	4	1	0
	Staff Appeals Sub-Committee	5	4	1	0

- 3.7 Based on sub-committee sizes of 7 and 5, as the Conservative Group have twice as many members as the Brent Conservative Group, the only remaining seat on each sub-committee has to be allocated to the Conservative Group. For the purposes of the third principle listed above, the composition of each sub-committee has to be considered in isolation and, as far as possible, reflect the membership of Full Council. This can only be achieved by allocating the single opposition group seat on each sub-committee to the Conservative Group.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 These are addressed in the body of the report.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 None.

Background Papers

None

Contact Officer

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