



General Purposes Committee

Thursday 27 February 2020 at 6.00 pm

Boardrooms 7 & 8 - Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ

Membership:

Members

Councillors:

M Butt (Chair)
McLennan (Vice-Chair)
Agha
Farah
Colwill
Hirani
Krupa Sheth
Tatler

Substitute Members

Councillors:

Aden, S Choudhary, Kabir, Knight, Miller, M Patel and Southwood

Councillors:

Kansagra and Maurice

For further information contact: Rashella Rapley, Governance Officer
Tel: 020 8937 3051 - Rashella.Rapley@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

Notes for Members - Declarations of Interest:

If a Member is aware they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent and must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a Member is aware they have a Personal Interest** in an item of business, they must declare its existence and nature at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent.

If the Personal Interest is also significant enough to affect your judgement of a public interest and either it affects a financial position or relates to a regulatory matter then after disclosing the interest to the meeting the Member must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item, except that they may first make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter, provided that the public are allowed to attend the meeting for those purposes.

***Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:**

- (a) **Employment, etc.** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

****Personal Interests:**

The business relates to or affects:

(a) Anybody of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management, and:

- To which you are appointed by the council;
- which exercises functions of a public nature;
- which is directed is to charitable purposes;
- whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy (including a political party of trade union).

(b) The interests a of a person from whom you have received gifts or hospitality of at least £50 as a member in the municipal year;

or

A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of:

- You yourself;
- a member of your family or your friend or any person with whom you have a close association or any person or body who is the subject of a registrable personal interest.

Agenda

Introductions, if appropriate.

Item	Page
1 Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members	
2 Declarations of interests	
There were no declarations of interests made by Member.	
3 Deputations (if any)	
To hear any deputations received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 67.	
4 Review of Polling Places 2020	To Follow
To consider a report from the Chief Executive detailing the results of a review of Polling places undertaken prior to the GLA election in May 2020	
Wards Affected: All	Contact Officer: Melanie Adams Electoral Manager 020 8937 1302 Melanie.Adams@brent.gov.uk
5 Review of Representation of Political Groups	1 - 4
This report details the outcome of a review of the representation of different political groups on the Sub Committees appointed by General Purpose Committee following the change in political balance on the Council as a result of the three recent Council by-elections held in January 2020.	
Wards Affected: All	Contact Officer: James Kinsella, Governance Manager 020 8937 2063 James.Kinsella@brent.gov.uk

6 Appointments to Sub Committees

To consider any appointments needing to be made in relation to General Purposes Sub Committees

7 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 60.


8 Exclusion of Press and Public

There are no items that required the exclusion of the press or public



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.

 <p>Brent</p>	<p>General Purposes Committee 27 February 2020</p> <hr/> <p>Report from the Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigations</p>
<p>Review of Representation of Political Groups and Appointments</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	James Kinsella Governance Manager Email: james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8937 2063

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 19 February 2020, Full Council is due to review and determine the representation of political groups on its main committees and subsequently make appointments to these, in accordance with the wishes of the political groups concerned. The need for this review has arisen as a result of the three Council by-elections held in the Alperton, Barnhill and Wembley Central wards on 23 January 2020. As soon as practicable after the Council has undertaken such a review, this Committee is also 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 Agrees the size of each sub-committee to be appointed by the Committee;
- 2.2 Agrees the allocation of seats to political groups on each of the sub-committees in accordance with political balance rules; and

2.3 Appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Members and Substitutes to each Sub-committee.

3.0 Detail

3.1 As General Purposes 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 any review undertaken by Full Council. 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 There is a fourth principle which applies to appointment of ordinary committees and which was therefore applied at the recent annual meeting. The legislation does not apply this principle to appointment to sub-committees.

3.6 The membership of the Council stands at 63 councillors with the composition of political groups as follows:

59 Labour Group councillors (93.65%) and 3 Conservative Group councillors (4.76%).

3.7 According to the political balance rules, a political group for this purpose is a group of two or more members. As a result of the by-election in Alperton ward, the Council's membership now also includes one Liberal Democrat councillor, representing 1.59% of the total composition of the Council. In light of the rules relating to political balance, it will not be possible to treat this single member as having formed a political group for the purposes of the review.

3.8 The current political balance and application of the three principles listed above results in the following allocation of seats:

Committee	Sub Committee	Size of Sub-Committee	Labour 59 (93.65%)	Conservative 3 (4.76%)	Liberal Democrat 1 (1.59%)
General Purposes	Pension Fund Sub-Committee	7	6	1	0
	Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee	5	4	1	0
	Senior Staff Appeals Sub-Committee	5	4	1	0

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.

Report sign off:

DEBRA NORMAN

Director of Legal, HR, Audit & Investigation.

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