



General Purposes Committee

27 May 2015

Report from the Chief Legal Officer

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Representation of Political Groups on Committees

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 20 May 2015 the Council reviewed the representation of political groups on its main committees. As soon as practicable after such a review, those committees are required to conduct a review of the representation of political groups on any sub-committees they may have. This report sets out the rules to be applied during the course of the review.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the size of the sub-committees;
- 2.2 Agree the allocation of seats on the sub-committees to each of the political groups set out in paragraph 3.5;
- 2.3 Appoint chairs and vice chairs, members and substitutes to the sub-committees.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Once a review of representation of political groups gives rise to new membership on a main committee that committee in turn falls under a duty to review the representation of political groups on its sub-committees.
- 3.2 Once the size of sub-committees is decided the main committee must, so far as is reasonably practicable, give effect to the principles which follow:
- (i) That not all 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 authority's membership.
- (iii) Subject to paragraph (i) above (and to (ii) above if it had been applicable) 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 seats on that sub-committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

3.3 In relation to the council's ordinary committees, there is an additional principle that (subject to the principles set out in paragraphs 3.2 (i) and (ii) above) the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Council which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of the Council as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council.

Members are asked to note that this principle specifically does not apply to ordinary sub-committees such as those of this committee.

3.4 The current membership of the authority is 63 consisting of 56 Labour councillors, 3 Conservative councillors, 3 Brondesbury Park Conservative councillors and 1 Liberal Democrat councillor.

3.5 The application of the principles set out at paragraph 3.2 above requires that the distribution of the available seats amongst the political groups on sub-committees of the size set out in the Constitution as follows:

Committee	Sub Committee	Size of Sub Cttee	Labour	Conservative and Brondesbury Park Conservative Group combined
General Purposes	Pension Fund Sub-Committee	7	6	1
	Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee	5	4	1
	Staff Appeals Sub-Committee	5	4	1

3.6 These figures are reached by "rounding out" fractions of seats so as to produce the minimum achievable deviation from the principle set out at paragraph 3.2(iii) above.

3.7 If any member intends to propose an alternative sub-committee size and allocation of seats they are requested to seek advice from the Chief Legal

Officer in advance of the meeting so the legality of the proposal can be checked.

3.8 Members are also asked to appoint members to the Employees Joint Consultative Committee and Teachers Joint Consultative Committee.

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 This report has been screened by officers and there are not considered to be any diversity implications arising from it.

Background Papers

The Brent Constitution
Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Contact Officer

Peter Goss, Democratic Services Manager, Brent Civic Centre, Wembley
Tel: 020 8937 1353
Peter.goss@brent.gov.uk

Fiona Alderman
Chief Legal Officer