



## **General Purposes Committee**

8 December 2016

### **Report from the Chief Legal Officer**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

## **Representation of Political Groups**

### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 21 November 2016 Full Council reviewed and determined the representation of political groups on certain committees because of a change in membership of the Conservative and Brent Conservative Groups. Subsequently, appointments were made.
- 1.2 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 the seats.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Agree the size of the three sub-committees; and
- 2.2 Agree the allocation of the opposition group seat on the three sub-committees to the Conservative Group.
- 2.3 Make appointments to the three sub-committees giving effect to the wishes of the Conservative Group.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 On 21 November 2016, Councillor Davidson, who was formerly a member of the Brent Conservative Group, joined the Conservative Group. As a result,

Full Council reviewed and determined the representation of political groups on certain 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 the seats.
- 3.3. The change in membership of a single opposition member does not affect the Labour Group's allocation of seats based on current sub-committee sizes. Nor does it affect current Labour Group appointments.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 The current membership of the Council is 63 members consisting of 56 Labour Group councillors (which remains unchanged since the Committee's previous review); 4 Conservative Group councillors (which is an increase of 1); 2 Brent Conservative Group councillors (which is a reduction of 1) and 1 independent councillor (who was previously a Liberal Democrat councillor).
- 3.7 The application of the principles listed above results in the following allocation of seats:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Sub Committee</b>	<b>Size of Sub-Cttee</b>	<b>Labour (88.88%)</b>	<b>Conservative (6.35%)</b>	<b>Brent Conservative (3.17%)</b>
General	Pension Fund	7	6	1	0

Purposes	Sub-Committee				
	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, there is no change to the allocation of seats to the Labour Group or the appointment of its members to the sub-committees. 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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