



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-Committee	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

Debra Norman, Chief Legal Officer, Resources Department, Brent Council, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FTJ Tel: 020 8937 1578

Looqman Desai, Senior Solicitor (Governance), Resources Department, Brent Council, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FTJ Tel: 020 8937 1366