



General Purposes Committee 21 May 2018

Report from the Director of Legal and HR Services

Review of Representation of Political Groups and Appointments

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 14 May 2018 Full Council is due to review and determine the representation of political groups on its main committees and subsequently make 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 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-committees.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 At its meeting on 14 May 2018 Full Council will review and determine the representation of political groups on its main committees and subsequently make 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 As a result of the local poll in the recent borough elections for Willesden Green ward being countermanded, Members are asked to note that the review detailed within this report has been based on a temporary Council membership of 60 as opposed to 63 councillors. Once the election in that ward has been held, a further review will need to be undertaken to confirm the final representation of political groups on the Council and allocation of seats on committees. This will include the need for a further review by the Committee in relation to its Sub-committees, which will be reported to the next meeting.

- 3.6 The composition of the Council is therefore currently as follows:

57 Labour Group councillors (95%) and 3 Conservative Group councillors (5%).

3.7 The application of the principles listed above results in the following allocation of seats:

3.7.1 There are a total of 17 ordinary seats on the Sub-committees General Purposes is required to appoint to and to which the political balance requirements will formally apply. As the 57 members of the Labour Group constitute 95% of the total membership of the Council, the proportion of seats the group is strictly entitled to is 16. However, as the political balance rules do not allow all the seats on a committee to be allocated to the same political group, at least 3 seats have to be allocated to the other political group. This will result in a final allocation of 14 seats to the Labour Group.

3.7.2 The Conservative Group are strictly entitled (based on the size of the group) to an allocation of 1 seat across all of the Sub-committees. However, as the Labour Group can only be allocated 14 and not 16 seats, the 2 remaining seats have to be allocated to the opposition group.

Committee	Sub Committee	Size of Sub-Cttee	Labour 57 (95%)	Conservative 3 (5%)
General Purposes	Pension Fund Sub-Committee	7	6	1
	Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee	5	4	1
	Senior Staff Appeals Sub-Committee	5	4	1
Total Seats		17		
Strict Entitlement (based on a proportion of total members)			16	1
Final Allocation (based on the political balance rules)			14 (-2)	3 (+2)

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 and HR Resources