



General Purposes Committee
17 July 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 9 July 2018 Full Council is due to undertake a further review and determine the representation of political groups on its main committees as a result of the Council membership and political balance having changed following the countermanded election in Willesden Green on 21 June 2018.
- 1.2 As soon as practicable after such a review, this Committee is then 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 Note the size of each sub-committee to be appointed by the Committee;
- 2.2 Confirm the allocation of seats to political groups on each of the sub-committees in accordance with political balance rules; and

- 2.3 Appoints, where required Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Members and Substitutes to each Sub-Committee.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 At its meeting on 9 July 2018 Full Council will be required to undertake a further 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 a result of the outcome of the countermanded election in Willesden Green held on 21 June 2018.
- 3.2 Whilst an annual review was undertaken at the Annual Council meeting on 14 May and subsequently by the General Purposes Committee on 21 May 2018, this review was based on a Council membership of 60 rather than 63 members given that it was undertaken in advance of the countermanded election held in June.
- 3.3 As this Committee has three Sub-committees, it also has a statutory duty to review and determine the representation of political groups on its Sub-committees as soon as practicable after any review 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.
- 3.4 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 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 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 In relation to the council's ordinary committees, there is an additional principle that (subject to the principles set out in paragraphs 3.5 (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.

- 3.7 As a result of the Willesden Green election, the composition of the Council now stands as follows:

60 Labour Group councillors (95.24%) and 3 Conservative Group councillors (4.76%).

- 3.8 The application of the principles listed above requires the distribution of the available seats amongst the political groups on sub-committees of the size set out in the Constitution and members are requested to make such a determination.

Committee	Sub Committee	Size of Sub-Cttee	Labour 60 (95%)	Conservative 3 (5%)
General Purposes	Pension Fund Sub-Committee (excluding the two non voting co-opted members)	7	6	1
	Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee	5	4	1
	Senior Staff Appeals Sub-Committee	5	4	1

- 3.9 It should be noted that despite the change in Council membership the proposed allocation of seats actually remains unchanged overall from the original review undertaken in May.

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 Services