



**General Purposes Committee**  
27 February 2020

**Report from the Director of Legal, HR,  
Audit & Investigations**

**Review of Representation of Political Groups and  
Appointments**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	James Kinsella Governance Manager Email: <a href="mailto:james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk">james.kinsella@brent.gov.uk</a> Tel: 020 8937 2063

## 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 19 February 2020, Full Council is due to review and determine the representation of political groups on its main committees and subsequently make appointments to these, in accordance with the wishes of the political groups concerned. The need for this review has arisen as a result of the three Council by-elections held in the Alperton, Barnhill and Wembley Central wards on 23 January 2020. As soon as practicable after the Council has undertaken such a review, this Committee is also 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-committee.

### **3.0 Detail**

3.1 As General Purposes 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 any review undertaken 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.

3.3 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 There is a fourth principle which applies to appointment of ordinary committees and which was therefore applied at the recent annual meeting. The legislation does not apply this principle to appointment to sub-committees.

3.6 The membership of the Council stands at 63 councillors with the composition of political groups as follows:

59 Labour Group councillors (93.65%) and 3 Conservative Group councillors (4.76%).

3.7 According to the political balance rules, a political group for this purpose is a group of two or more members. As a result of the by-election in Alperton ward, the Council's membership now also includes one Liberal Democrat councillor, representing 1.59% of the total composition of the Council. In light of the rules relating to political balance, it will not be possible to treat this single member as having formed a political group for the purposes of the review.

3.8 The current political balance and application of the three principles listed above results in the following allocation of seats:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Sub Committee</b>	<b>Size of Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Labour 59 (93.65%)</b>	<b>Conservative 3 (4.76%)</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat 1 (1.59%)</b>
General Purposes	Pension Fund Sub-Committee	7	6	1	0
	Senior Staff Appointments Sub-Committee	5	4	1	0
	Senior Staff Appeals Sub-Committee	5	4	1	0

#### **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, HR, Audit & Investigation.