

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ANNUAL COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>23 MAY 2016</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>ACTING COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND ACTING MONITORING OFFICER</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b>	
The Council is required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to keep under review the representation of the different political groups on bodies appointed by the Council. Section 2 of Part 4.A of the Constitution empowers the Council to appoint non-executive Committees at its annual meeting.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b>	
There are no financial issues arising from the recommendations in this report.	
<b>THIS IS NOT A KEY DECISION</b>	

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

- 1.1 Having reviewed the representation of the political groups on the Council, confirms that there are 39 Labour Group Members and 30 Conservative Group Members and one ungrouped Member (as set out in Para 3.1.1); and
- 1.2 Approves the appointment and composition of Committees as set out in paragraph 3.2.3.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Council is required under Section 15(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to keep under review the representation of the different political groups on bodies appointed by the Council.
- 2.2 This report details:
  - i) The annual review of the political balance of the Council; and
  - ii) Recommends the appointment and composition of Committees for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

### 3. REPORT DETAIL

#### 3.1 Political Groups

3.1.1 In accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the under-mentioned Councillors have given notice to the Chief Executive of their wish to be regarded as members of the political groups as set out below:

#### **Labour Political Party**

Hamida Ali  
Jamie Audsley  
Jane Avis  
Kathy Bee  
Carole Bonner  
Alison Butler  
Robert Canning  
Sherwan Chowdhury  
Pat Clouder  
Stuart Collins  
Sean Fitzsimons  
Alisa Flemming  
Timothy Godfrey  
Simon Hall  
Patricia Hay-Justice  
Maddie Henson  
Karen Jewitt  
Humayun Kabir  
Bernadette Khan  
Shafi Khan  
Stuart King  
Toni Letts  
Oliver Lewis  
Stephen Mann  
Maggie Mansell  
Tony Newman  
Andrew Pelling  
Joy Prince  
Andrew Rendle  
Pat Ryan  
Paul Scott  
Mike Selva  
Wayne Trakas-Lawlor  
Manju Shahul-Hameed  
Mark Watson  
John Wentworth  
David Wood

#### **Conservative Political Party**

Jeet Bains  
Sara Bashford  
Sue Bennett  
Margaret Bird  
Simon Brew  
Janice Buttinger  
Richard Chatterjee  
Luke Clancy  
Mario Creatura  
Jason Cummings  
Michael Fisher  
Maria Gatland  
Lynne Hale  
Steven Hollands  
Yvette Hopley  
Dudley Mead  
Margaret Mead  
Vidhi Mohan  
Michael Neal  
Stephen O'Connell  
Jason Perry  
Helen Pollard  
Timothy Pollard  
Badsha Quadir  
Donald Speakman  
Andy Stranack  
Philip Thomas  
James Thompson  
Susan Winborn  
Christopher Wright

Louisa Woodley  
Callton Young

**Ungrouped**  
Matthew Kyremeh

### 3.2 Proportionality

3.2.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Duty to Allocate Seats to Political Groups) sets out the requirements as to political proportionality on Council bodies and requires the Council, in allocating seats on committees and sub-committees of the Council to political groups, to give effect, so far as practicable, to the following rules:

- (i) that not all seats on the committee/sub-committee are allocated to the same political group;
- (ii) that the political group having a majority of seats on the Council should have a majority on each committee and sub-committee;
- (iii) that, subject to (i) and (ii) above, the number of seats on the Council's committees and sub-committees allocated to each political group, bears the same proportion to the total number of such committee/sub-committee seats as the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the full Council, and
- (iv) that, subject to (i) to (iii) above, seats will be allocated on each committee and sub-committee in the same ratio as exists on the full Council.

3.2.2 The Council's overriding duty to comply with (i) and (ii) above takes precedence over achieving a mathematically balanced distribution of Committee seats as described in (iii) and (iv). Applying those rules the table below sets out the allocation of seats.

	<b>Political Composition- percentage seats out of 70</b>	<b>Proposed allocation of actual seats out of 95 voting seats</b>	<b>Percentage outcome of allocation of 95 voting Seats*</b>
Labour Group	55.7%	59	62.1
Conservative Group	42.9%	36	37.9
ungrouped	1.4.%	0	0
	100%	95	100

\*3.2.3 below shows that there are 95 voting seats available to political groups. Where co-optees can vote, the allocation has to take into account the need for Majority party to have a majority of seats over all Minority party members **and** co-opted members. The proposed percentage allocation only includes those seats to which elected Members can be appointed.

3.2.3 In accordance with Article 4.01(f) of the Constitution, the Council is required to decide on the composition of Committees and make appointments to them. It is therefore proposed that Council appoint the following Committees and agree their composition:

	Majority seats	Minority seats	co-optees	Total seats <sup>1</sup>
Appointment Committee	4	2	2	8
Ethics Committee	4	2	2	8
General Purposes & Audit Committee	6	4	2	12
Mayoralty & Honorary Freeman Selection Sub-Committee	3	2	0	5
General Purposes & Audit Committee: Urgency Sub-Committee	2	1	0	3
Licensing Committee	7	5	0	12
Licensing Sub-Committee	2	1	0	3
Pensions Committee	5	3	3	11
Planning Committee	6	4	0	10
Planning Sub-Committee	3	2	0	5
Scrutiny and Overview Committee	4	2	1	7
Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee	5	3	5	13
Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee	4	2	1	7
Streets, Environment & Homes Scrutiny Sub-Committee	4	3	0	7
	59	36	16	111

3.2.4 The Ethics Committee is separately constituted. The Standards Board for England was abolished by the Localism Act 2011 and the political balance requirements of the 1989 Act do not apply to the Ethics Committee. However the Constitution provides that all political groups must be represented. The Ethics Committee is constituted of six Councillors and two non-elected Independent persons.

3.2.5 Under the Licensing Act 2003, Sub-Committees of the Licensing Committee are constituted separately. There is no statutory requirement for political balance or for it to be included in the Council's political balance calculations, but it is the practice of the authority to ensure that, as far as reasonably practicable, such Sub-Committees are constituted in accordance with the Council's scheme of proportionality.

<sup>1</sup> Co-opted members are non-voting except for four of the five co-optees on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee in respect of issues relating to the Council as a Local Education Authority; and the two Independent Persons, on the Appointment Committee, for specified purposes, as detailed in paragraph 3.24 of the Annual Review of the Constitution & Related Matters

3.2.6 The Health & Well-Being Board is separately constituted under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Regulations made under the Health and Social Act 2012 provide that Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Duty to Allocate Seats to Political Groups) need not apply to the composition of this Board.

3.2.7 The Local Pension Board is constituted under the Public Pensions Act 2013 and the Local Government Pensions Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2015. The proportionality rules do not apply to the Board which has three employer representatives and three employee representatives and an Independent non-voting Chair. One of the Employer representatives is a Councillor (Labour) The other employer representatives are employers who are Admitted Bodies

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The recommendations contained within this report are compliant with the Council's duties under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Local Government Act 2000, the Licensing Act 2003, the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, and the Council's Constitution.

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None.