

# MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/10 REPORT NO. 86

## MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

COUNCIL  
- 23.9.09

## REPORT OF:

Director of Finance and  
Corporate  
Resources

Contact Officer:  
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AGENDA - PART: 1	ITEM: 15
SUBJECT:  MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS	

## 1. SUMMARY

To determine the constitution and political balance of the committees, joint committees and panels that have been set up for the discharge of the Council's functions, following the recent change in the political makeup of the Council.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the seats be allocated to each political party, on the committees and boards to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 apply in accordance with the following proportions and the number of available seats.

Total number of available seats - 237

% of seats allocated to each Group -

- Conservative 53.97% (128 seats)
- Labour 42.86% (102 seats)
- Save Chase Farm 3.17% (7 seats).

2.2 In accordance with paragraph 3.3 of the report, Council resolves without dissent that the rules of political proportionality should not apply to the Adoption Panel, Fostering Panel and the Standards Committee.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 imposes a duty on Councils to review the representation of different political groups on bodies to which the Council makes appointments. The Act

requires that the review should be held at the Annual Meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting or, for example, when the membership of the Council changes as a result of a by-election

3.2 The Act provides four principles concerning political representation that must be observed when conducting a review. The four principles are:-

- (a) That not all seats are allocated to the same political party.
- (b) That the political group with the majority of seats should have the majority of seats on each committee.
- (c) Subject to (a) and (b) that the total number of seats allocated to political groups on all committees (to which Section 15 of the Act applies), shall be in the same proportion as the total number of seats on the authority held by each political group.
- (d) Subject to (a) to (c) that the number of seats allocated to each political group on a committee (to which Section 15 of the Act applies), shall be the same as the proportion of the total number of seats on the authority held by each political group.

3.3 The fourth principle can be waived if the members of the Council agree with no member voting against. Where the fourth principle is waived the allocation of seats on the committee in question must still be included in the calculation as to the total number of seats held by each political group on all committees.

#### 4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The recommendations in this report are in accordance with section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and the Council is obliged to allocate its seats on a proportional basis in accordance with this legislation.

#### 5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 See paragraph 4 above.

#### 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report.

#### 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There is a specific duty imposed on the Council to review each year at the Annual meeting, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the representation of different political groups, or when the Council membership changes as a result of a by-election. The legislation

provides that the Council may make alternative arrangements to the 'proportionality' principles within this report only by a unanimous vote. However a political group may decide to offer a seat on a committee or panel to another political group. This does not affect the proportionality principles as it remains within the gift of that political group to determine how it wishes to exercise that discretion, if at all.

8. PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST

Aim 5(e) Provide effective community leadership and promote active citizenship involvement in decision making

Aim 5(g) Ensure the Council maintains strong corporate governance in line with more demanding legislative requirements

Background Papers

None.