

Council: 8th October 2014

Review of Political Balance and Council Proportionality Arrangements

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1. Background

- 1.1 Following the recent change in the political composition of the Council, as a result of Councillor Haydar Ulus becoming an Independent Member, Council is being asked to note the change in its political balance and proportionality arrangements.

2. Review of Political Balance & Proportionality

- 2.1 The last proportionality review of the Council was undertaken at the Annual Council Meeting (11 June 2014). Following the recent change, the membership of the Council now stands as follows:

- Labour: 40 members – which equates to an overall % in terms of Council membership of 63.5%
- Conservatives: 22 members – which equates to an overall % in terms of Council membership of 34.92% (unchanged from the review in June 14)
- Independent Member: 1 member - which equates to an overall % in terms of Council membership of 1.58%

- 2.2 Given the above change in membership, there has been a need to review the overall allocation of seats on Committees and other relevant bodies to take account of the revised % set out above. It should be noted, that although the political balance on the Council now includes one Independent Member, there is no requirement to include that member within the proportionality review as they do not constitute a “political group” under the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

- 2.3 Of the 156 seats available for allocation between the Groups (used as the basis for the annual proportionality review undertaken in June 14) Labour had 102 seats with the Conservative Group allocated 54. As a result of the new political balance on the Council the overall % of seats that Labour are now entitled to has been reduced by 3, which will give them a total allocation of 99 and equate to 63.46% of available seats.

- 2.4 In order to comply with the revised proportionality requirement, the Majority Group have advised they will be vacating one seat on each of the following bodies:
- Public Transport Consultative Group (revised membership Labour: 6 (reduced from 7)/Conservative: 4 (unchanged) & 1 vacancy)
 - Staff Appeals Panel (revised membership Labour 8 (reduced from 9)/Conservative: 4 (unchanged) & 1 vacancy)
 - Edmonton Partnership Working Group (revised membership Labour: 4 (reduced from 5)/Conservative: 2 (unchanged)).
- 2.5 Although not entitled to any seats, apart from on Council and at his Ward Forum, the Majority Group have indicated they are willing to offer the Independent Member one seat on the Edmonton Partnership Working Group (which covers the ward he represents and on which he is already a member). It is possible for Council to allow this, although as a departure from the rules relating to the allocation of seats under political proportionality this will require Council to formally agree the change with no member voting against the proposal.
- 2.6 The associated changes to committee membership have been set out under Agenda Item 17.2 (Committee Memberships).

3. Recommendation

Council is being asked to note the change in political balance and proportionality on the Council and to agree (subject to no member voting against), that the Independent Member be allocated a seat on the Edmonton Partnership Working Group.