

Council: 9 November 2016

Review of Political Balance and Council Proportionality Arrangements

Contact: Asmat Hussain – Monitoring Officer (020 8379 6438)

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the recent change in the political composition of the Council, as a result of Councillor Nesimi Erbil 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 full proportionality review of the Council was undertaken at the Annual Council Meeting (11 May 2016). The current list of seats now includes the recent amendment to the Public Transport Consultative Group reducing the number of members from 11 to 8 and the recent change in the political make up. Following the latest 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 35%
- Independent Member: 1 member - which equates to an overall % in terms of Council membership of 1.5%

- 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 Taking account of the change to the Public Transport Consultative Group there are 163 seats available for allocation between the Groups. Before the changes set out in the report Labour had 105 seats with the Conservative Group allocated 58. 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 2, which will give them a total

allocation of 103 and equate to 63.1% of available seats. The Conservative Group allocation remains unchanged.

- 2.4 In order to comply with the revised proportionality requirement, the Majority Group have advised they will be vacating one seat on two bodies: details to be confirmed.
- 2.6 The associated changes to committee membership will be provided on the Council update sheet tabled at the meeting and set out under Agenda Item 14.2 (Committee Memberships).

3. Recommendation

Council is being asked to note the change in political balance and proportionality on the Council and to agree the proposed changes in committee membership.