

**MEETING TITLE AND DATE:
COUNCIL**

10 July 2019

REPORT OF: Jeremy Chambers
(Director of Law and
Governance)**Contact Officer:**Jeremy Chambers
jeremy.chambers@enfield.gov.uk**AGENDA - PART:** 1**Item:** 11**SUBJECT:** Membership of Audit and Risk
Management Committee**WARDS:** All**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Council is required to determine the constitution and political balance of the committees, joint committees and panels that have been set up for the purpose of discharging its functions.
- 1.2 The proposals to amend the membership of Audit & Risk Management Committee detailed within the report support this requirement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council determines the membership of Audit & Risk Management Committee to be either: -
- (a) A committee membership of Nine (9) with Seven Labour (7) and Two (2) Conservative members; or
 - (b) A committee membership of Eleven (11) with Eight (8) Labour and Three (3) Conservative.

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 when the membership of the Council changes.
- 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.
- 3.4 The balance of the Council is 74/26%. Set out in the table below are the various calculations options for Audit & Risk Management Committee: -

Committee Size	Labour	Percentage	Conservative	Percentage
7 (current)	6	86%	1	14%
9	7	78%	2	22%
10	8	80%	2	20%
11	9	82%	2	18%
11	8	73%	3	27%

- 3.5 On this basis only a Committee of 9 (balanced 7/2) or 11 (balanced 8/3) achieve near the right overall balance of 74/26%.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None – Council is required under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to review the representation of different political groups on bodies to which it makes appointments whenever there is a change in political representation.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 There is a duty imposed on the Council to review, the political balance of bodies to which it makes appointments.

6. COMMENTS OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

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

6.2 Legal Implications

6.2.1 There is a specific duty imposed on the Council to keep under review the representation of different political groups.

6.2.2 The recommendations in this report are in accordance with the power set out within Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

7. KEY RISKS

The Council has a statutory duty to review at its Annual meeting, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the representation of different political groups. The proposals detailed in this report support that duty.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

The review and proposals within this report will help to ensure the fair, equal and consistent allocation of seats between each political party on Council bodies. The proposals have not been subject to a detailed equalities impact assessment.

9. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

9.1 Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods

9.2 Sustain strong and healthy communities

9.3 Build our local economy to create a thriving place

The review will have a positive impact on members' representational roles and a consequential impact on communities and the Council's overall governance arrangements.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

11. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

None identified

Background Papers: None