

London Borough of Enfield

Meeting: Council

Meeting Date: 1 July 2020

Subject: Membership of Committees and Panels

Director: Jeremy Chambers (Director of Law and Governance)

Key Decision: Non-Key

Purpose of Report

1. The Council is legally required to review the constitution and political balance of its committees, joint committees and panels every year at the Annual Council meeting. These bodies are set up to enable the Council to discharge its functions.
2. The proposals within the report support this requirement.

Proposals

3. That as a result of the review, the seats allocated to each political party on the committees and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 apply, be as set out in Appendix A of this report.
4. In accordance with paragraph 11 of the report, Council resolves without dissent that the rules of political proportionality should not apply to those bodies marked with an asterisk * on Appendix A.

Reason for Proposals

5. There is a duty imposed on the Council to review, at the Annual Meeting or as soon as possible thereafter, the political balance of bodies to which it makes appointments.
6. The bodies in question are the committees and boards shown in the table contained in the appendix A to this report.
7. The table shows the political balance of the Council and the number of seats suggested for allocation to each political party in respect of each committee or board, to comply with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Relevance to the Council Plan

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

Background

Main Considerations for the Council

9. 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.
10. 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 most seats should have the most seats on each committee.
 - c. Subject to a and b above 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 above 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.
11. 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.
12. The committees and boards to which the provisions of Section 15 of the Act apply are shown in Appendix A together with the overall political balance of the Council.

Safeguarding Implications

13. The members of the relevant boards will receive safeguarding training.

Public Health Implications

14. None identified.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

15. 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.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

16. None identified.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

17. If the Council does not review the composition of its committees and other bodies to reflect the Council's membership, any decisions taken could be unlawful.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

18. 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. The Act requires that the review should be held at the Annual Meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting or the change has occurred.

Financial Implications

19. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report. The work of committees will be carried out within existing resources.

Legal Implications

20. 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.

21. 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.

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

Workforce Implications

23. None. The work of the committees will continue to be carried out by the current Governance and Scrutiny team.

Property Implications

24. None

Other Implications

25. None

Options Considered

26. No other options have been considered because the Council is required under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to review at the Annual meeting the representation of different political groups on bodies to which it makes appointments.

Conclusions

27. The Council is asked to approve the representation of the different political groups and bodies to which it makes appointments as set out in Appendix A to the report.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Sets out the proportionality and memberships for each committee.

Background Papers

None