

## London Borough of Enfield

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Membership of Committees and Panels</b>
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Jeremy Chambers (Director of Law and Governance)</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Non-Key</b>

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### 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. 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**

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.

## **Main Considerations for the Council**

11. 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**

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

## **Public Health Implications**

13. None identified.

## **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

14. 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**

15. None identified.

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

16. 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**

17. 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**

18. 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**

19. 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.
20. 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**

21. None.

## **Property Implications**

22. None

## **Other Implications**

23. None

## **Options Considered**

24. 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**

25. 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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Report Author: Jeremy Chambers

Date of report: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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

### **Background Papers**

None

## Appendix A

2021/22

Title of Meeting	Total	Labour	Conservative	Community First	Vacancy
<b>Total Councillors</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
%	<b>62</b>	<b>62.90</b>	<b>27.42</b>	<b>9.68</b>	
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>16</b>	
Overview and Scrutiny	8	5	2	1	
Crime	8	5	2	1	
Children & Young People	8	5	2	1	
Health & Social Care	8	5	2	1	
Environment and Climate Action	8	5	2	1	
Housing	8	5	2	1	
Finance & Performance	8	5	2	1	
Regeneration & Economic Development	8	5	2	1	
General Purposes	9	6	2	1	
Licensing Committee (Licensing Sub Committee 2:1 from the pool of Licensing Committee members)	15	9	4	2	
Planning Committee	12	8	3	1	
Councillor Conduct Committee* - 2:2	4	2	2	0	
Staff Appeals, Appointments and Remuneration Committee	13	8	3	2	
Environment Forum	5	4	1	0	
Equalities Board	9	6	2	1	
Pension Policy and Investment Committee	6	4	2	0	
Local Pension Board	3	2	1	0	
Corporate Parenting Group* - 2:2	4	2	2	0	
Fostering Panel* - 1:1	2	1	1	0	
Learning Difficulties Partnership Board - 2:1	3	2	1	0	
Joint Consultative Group for Teachers and Staff Forum - 3:2	5	3	1	1	
Member Governor Forum - 3:2	5	3	2	0	
Schools Forum* - 1:0	1	1	0	0	
Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education* - 2:2	4	2	2	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>16</b>	
Actual Percentage of Representation		62.80	27.439	9.76	