

APPENDIX A – APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

CALCULATION OF POLITICAL BALANCE (PROPORTIONALITY)

BACKGROUND

The Council must allocate seats on committees and other prescribed bodies so as to give effect to the political balance rules.

The rules for the allocation of seats are set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Government Committee and Political Group Regulations 1990.

Section 15(4) sets out four rules, and requires authorities to apply them in descending order of priority.

- Rule 1: Where some or all of the members of an authority have formed into two or more political groups, then no Committee may comprise just members from one political group.
- Rule 2: Where a majority of members of Council are members of one political group, that political group must have a majority of the seats on each Committee.
- Rule 3: Without being inconsistent with the first two rules, the number of seats allocated to each political group on all the Committees taken together be as near as possible proportionate to their strength on Council.
- Rule 4: So far as is consisted with Rules 1 to 3, each political party must be allocated that number of seats on each Committee taken individually as is proportionate to their strength on the Council. However, as set out above, this is subject to the need to give the majority a majority on each Committee.

Any seats left unallocated go by default to any members who are not members of any political group. A political group must comprise at least two members.

The Council can only depart from these rules by passing a resolution with no member voting against the resolution.

The political proportionality rules also apply to those outside bodies dealing with local government matters to which the council appoints three or more representatives.

This proportionality report is based on the principles described above and takes into account the result of the Garden Suburb by-election held on 7 May 2015. As a result this report is requested to be agreed by Council to ensure the seats are allocated using the appropriate principles as based in law.

The political composition of the Council is as follows:

	Council	Conservative	Labour	Un-grouped
Members	63	32	30	1
Percentage	100%	50.79%	47.62%	1.58%

Bodies to which proportionality does not or need not apply

- i. Consultative bodies established for consultation with staff are not regarded as council committees subject to the political balance rules. Each has a special composition.
- ii. The Council appoints or nominates Members to a variety of special statutory bodies, or informal or consultative bodies that are not council committees or sub-committees of the Council. The political balance rules do not apply to these bodies.
- iii. Council agreed on 16 April 2013 and on 2 June 2014 the recommendations of the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee in respect of the Health and Well Being Board, including using the provisions of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Well Being Board and Health Scrutiny Regulations 2013 (Si 218) to waive the requirements under the 1972 Local Government Act for political balance.
- iv. The Regulations provide an exception from the political balance requirements where a committee is established to discharge functions in part of an authority's area where:
 - (a) It consists entirely of Members elected for wards which comprise the area, and
 - (b) Either the area or its population does not exceed two-fifths of the total for the authority.

These regulations allow the Area Planning Committees and Area Committees to be constituted on a Ward Member basis.

Achieving Political Balance

An allocation of seats is detailed in the table below. The number of Members and any specific requirements of membership are taken from the Responsibility for Functions section of the Constitution agreed by Council on 14 April 2015.

Whilst there is no requirement to set the size of Committees to secure proportionality, in order to comply with the requirement for the majority party to enjoy a majority on each Committee, yet get as close as possible to arithmetic proportionality the number of seats on all Committees within the proportionality calculation (with the exception of Policy and Resources) is an odd number.

Committee	Number of Members	Conservative	Labour	Un-Grouped
Policy and Resources	12	7	5	0
Performance and Contract Management	11	6	5	0
Children Education Libraries and Safeguarding	9	5	4	0
Environment	11	6	5	0
Assets Regeneration and Growth	9	5	4	0
Adults and Safeguarding	9	5	4	0
Housing	9	5	4	0
Community Leadership	11	6	5	0
Licensing Committee	11	6	5	0
Audit Committee	7	4	3	0
Planning Committee	11	6	5	0
General Functions Committee	7	4	3	0
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9	5	4	0
Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee	7	4	3	0

Committee	Number of Members	Conservative	Labour	Un-Grouped
Chief Officer Appointments Panel (must include Leader, Deputy Leader, General Functions Committee Chairman and all Group Leaders)	5	3	2	0
Pension Fund Committee	7	4	3	0
Group Leaders Panel (must include each Group Leader)	5	3	2	0
Urgency Committee (must include Leader, Deputy and Opposition Leader)	3	2	1	0
Total	153	86	67	0
Percentages	100%	56.21%	43.79%	

Appointments should also be made to the following committees not included within the schedule. Members for Area Planning Committees, Area Committees and the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee should represent wards within the appropriate area concerned. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel is not subject to proportionality rules, but the Panel has been appointed to on a proportional basis in previous years.

Seat allocations on non-politically proportional bodies

Committee	Membership	Seat Allocation		
		Con	Lab	Un-Grouped
Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee	7	4	3	
Chipping Barnet Area Committee	7	3	4	
Hendon Area Committee	7	4	3	

Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee	4	2	2	
Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel	9	5	4	
Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Committee	7	4	3	
Chipping Barnet Area Planning Committee	7	3	4	
Hendon Area Planning Committee	7	4	3	

Council will note that the proportionality calculations result in the un-grouped member securing no seats on any Committee. Council could, if it so resolved by a resolution with no member voting against the resolution, depart from proportionality to allocate some seats to the un-grouped member. However, Council should note that, if the majority party were to retain a majority of seats on each Committee, any seats given to the un-grouped member would have to come from within those seats otherwise allocated to the Labour Party group.

RECOMMEND:

- 1. That Council note the political balance of the Council is 32 Members of the Conservative Group; 30 Members of the Labour Group; 1 Liberal Democrat.**
- 2. That Council agree the allocation of seats as set out in the table to this report in order to comply with the political balance regulations requiring seats to be allocated proportionately to the political groups represented on Council.**
- 3. That Council determine whether it wishes to allocate a seat(s) to the member not part of a political group on such Committee as Council may determine.**
- 4. That Council consider the nominations for appointments to Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix A1 and agree the appointments.**