

Annual Council Meeting
17 May 2010

FURTHER SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE ACTING DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
MANAGER

AGENDA ITEM 11

11.6 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES (WITH CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN) AND POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

Political Balance: Background

The Council must allocate seats on committees and other prescribed bodies so as to give effect to the political balance rules under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

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

Bodies to which proportionality does not apply.

The consultative bodies established for consultation with staff are also not regarded as council committees subject to the political balance rules. Each has a special composition.

The political proportionality rules do not apply to the Standards Committee, which is a matter for the Council to determine having regard to Standards Board for England guidance or to the appointment of the Cabinet under the Council's Constitution which is a matter for the Leader to determine.

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.

Area Committees

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, and

- (a) 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.

This allows the six area planning and environment sub-committees to be constituted on a ward member basis.

The political group with the majority of seats on the council is entitled to a majority of seats on all the relevant Committees.

Achieving Political Balance

The proportionality calculation is based on a long-established principle and precedent within the Council

The procedure to be followed is:

- (a) Determine the split between the political groups on the Council. On current numbers, this is calculated as follows:

Party	Number of Councillors	As percentage
Conservative	39	61.90%
Labour	21	33.33%
Lib Dem	3	4.76%
TOTAL	63	99.99% (100%)

- (b) Allocate the total number of seats on 'ordinary committees' directly covered by the proportionality rules in the proportions shown in (a).
- (c) Allocate seats on each committee to match the totals in (b), endeavouring to ensure that each individual committee's composition is as close as possible to balance identified in (a).
- (d) Allocate seats on other committees and sub-committees as far as possible to make the political balance identified in (a) above, but without the requirement to check the balance on the numbers of seats in total.

'Ordinary committees' has a special statutory meaning. It only includes committees that have delegated powers to discharge the council's statutory functions. It does not include informal bodies that are not committees. The total number of committee seats to be allocated on this basis is 84.

Taking the calculations based on the political split described above, the allocation of seats on ordinary committees is set out in Appendix A. The total allocation of seats on ordinary committees is:-

51 Conservative
28 Labour
5 Liberal Democrat

Appendix A also identifies all of the other Council Committees and Panels not required to be appointed proportionally and their compositions.

RECOMMEND:

- (1) That on the basis that the Council is made up of 63 members comprising three political groups (Conservative group (39 members), Labour group (21 members), and Liberal Democrat group (3 members), the allocation of seats on committees subject to the political balance regulations be as set out above.**
- (2) That the Pension Fund Committee be excluded from the political balance arrangements, and that seats be allocated as set out in the schedule at Appendix A.**
- (3) That the allocation of seats on Committees and other bodies appointed by the Council should be in accordance with Appendix A.**
- (4) That each political group be invited to nominate members for seats in accordance with the principles set out above and the allocations set out in Appendix A, and that the Council and Council committees appoint Committees, Panels and other relevant bodies in accordance with those principles and allocations.**

11.7 INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council agreed at its special meeting of 3 November 2009 to adopt a 'new style' leader and cabinet model of executive arrangements as its form of executive governance. The necessary changes to the constitution were then agreed as part of the report of the Special Committee (Constitution Review) at the Council meeting of 20 April 2010.

As a result of these new arrangements, the Executive Leader will continue to be elected by the Council, but can now only be removed by a resolution of Council. The new model also concentrates executive powers into the hands of the Leader. This means that it is the responsibility of the Leader to appoint a Deputy Leader and Cabinet, rather than of the Council as in the past.

These new arrangements also grant the Leader a four year term of office which can only be taken away by a majority vote by full Council. It is thus intended that the Leader will remain Leader of the Council until the Annual Council Meeting following Local Elections, completing a four year term of office.

RECOMMEND:

- (1) That the above information on the election of the Leader be noted.**

11.8 I.T. AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR COUNCILLORS

- 11.8.1 This report replaces that previously circulated as item 11.5 (Supplementary Report of the Acting Democratic Services Manager), which has been withdrawn.
- 11.8.2 Officers have recently consulted with the political groups on options for a standard package of I.T., telephony and other equipment for all Councillors.
- 11.8.3 Members newly elected to the Council in the local government elections 2010 have received a standard package of I.T., telephony and other equipment necessary to carry out their duties as Councillors.
- 11.8.4 It is proposed that an immediate rolling programme for the issuing of IT, telephony and other equipment be implemented for all returning Members.
- 11.8.5 To facilitate this programme of provision, Council is asked to approve the continuation of the current notional allowance scheme covering Members IT and other equipment for 2010-11, subject to a Member-led review of notional allowances to be reported to Council in April 2011.

RECOMMEND:

- (1) That Council endorse the above arrangements for I.T., telephony and other equipment for Councillors.**
- (2) That Council approve the continuation of the current notional allowance scheme covering Members IT and other equipment for 2010-11 and the establishment of a Member-led Review into the system of notional allowances for Councillors, to be reported to Council in April 2011.**

11.9 DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDER – CONTROLLED DRINKING ZONE FOR CHILDS HILL WARD

- 11.9.1 The making of the Designated Public Place Order is a Council function and therefore the approval of the Cabinet on 12 April 2010 for the creation of a Designated Public Place Order covering the environs of Cricklewood Town Centre within Childs Hill Ward could only be a recommendation for Council to ratify. This is because Regulation 10 of the Local Authority's (Alcohol Consumption and Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007 (No. 806) states that the making of a Designated Public Places Order is not to be the responsibility of the executive.
- 11.9.2 A copy of the recommendations approved by the Cabinet are set out in the attached report and appendices which refer to all relevant matters for consideration, save as varied herein. The Cabinet also agreed that the Director of Environment and Operations should continuously monitor the impact of the Designated Public Order Place (once in situ) and seek to share some of the £5,000 cost of meeting the Order with the Police.

RECOMMEND:

- (1) That the Council ratifies the recommendations approved by the Cabinet at their meeting on 12 April 2010 for the creation of a Designated Public Place Order covering the environs of Cricklewood Town Centre within Childs Hill Ward.**

Aysen Giritli
Acting Democratic Services Manager