

	<p><b>Council</b></p> <p><b>29 October 2019</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment to Article 7 (Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships)</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix A – Article 7 (Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) (Tracked)</p> <p>Appendix B – Article 7 (Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships)</p> <p>Appendix C – Members Allowances Scheme (Tracked)</p> <p>Appendix D – Members Allowances Scheme</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance, 020 8359 2014, <a href="mailto:andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk">andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk</a></p>

## Summary

As detailed elsewhere on the agenda, a Liberal Democrat Group has recently been formed which alters the political balance of the Council. Prior to the recalculation of political balance, the Leader has indicated that the Administration wish to merge the Housing Committee and Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee and create a Housing & Growth Committee. Additionally, there is a requirement to amend the number of seats on some committees to ensure that the Liberal Democrats are given their proportionate seat entitlement. Full details of the changes are set out in the linked report on political proportionality.

Council are requested to approve the changes to Article 7 and the Members Allowances Scheme to: delete Housing Committee and Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee; create a Housing & Growth Committee; vary the number of seats on committees; and amendments to the Members Allowances Scheme.

## **Recommendations**

### **That Council:**

- 1. Approve the revised Article 7 (Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) as set out in Appendix B.**
- 2. Approve the amendments to the Members Allowances Scheme as set in Appendix D.**

### **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 A Liberal Democrat Group has recently been formed which alters the political balance of the Council. Prior to the recalculation of political balance, the Leader has indicated that the Administration wish to delete the Housing Committee and Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee and create a Housing & Growth Committee.
- 1.2 Ordinarily Constitution amendments would be initially reviewed by the Constitution & General Purposes Committee prior to consideration by Full Council. Due to the link to the change in political proportionality which requires an immediate decision by Full Council, it would not be practicable to take the proposed amendments via the Committee prior to Full Council consideration.

### **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Amendments to the Constitution require Council approval.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 Council could retain a separate Housing Committee and Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee.

### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The revised Constitution will be published online and for existing hard copies issued to be revised and replaced.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

#### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 Barnet Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. By keeping the Constitution under review it ensures that the framework in which the Council is governed supports the delivery of corporate priorities and performance.

## **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 Deleting the Housing Committee and Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee and creating a Housing & Growth Committee will result in the deletion of one Band 3 SRA of £15,333. This will result in in-year (2019/20) savings of approximately £6,389 and an on-going annual saving of £15,333 from 2020/21 onwards. These savings will be utilised towards meeting Assurance Group MTFS savings targets.

## **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 Council Constitution, Article 4 states that “The Full Council is a formal meeting of all Councillors and is required by law to take certain important decisions as set out below. Full Council also approves a number of key plans and strategies, which together form the Policy Framework:....Adopting and changing the Constitution (unless delegated).”

5.3.2 Council Constitution, Article 4 states that Full Council is responsible for:

- Adopting a Members’ Allowance Scheme; and
- Agreeing and amending the terms of reference of committees, deciding their composition and making appointments to them

5.3.3 Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Compensation (Local Authority (Members in England) Regulations 2003 (“the Regulations”) have been repealed and therefore no longer need to be included in Members Allowance Scheme. Reference to the regulations has therefore been deleted.

## **5.4 Risk Management**

5.4.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

## **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

## **5.6 Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 The Administration and Main Opposition Group have been consulted on the proposed committee changes as detailed in this report.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.