



Extraordinary Council

2 May 2023

Title	Political Proportionality
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	All Wards
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A – Calculation of Political Balance
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Summary

On 23rd May 2023 the Council is expected to move to an Executive system of governance. This requires the political balance of the Council to be re-calculated based on the new seats allocated to politically proportionate committees.

Officers Recommendations

1. That Council note the political balance of the Council is:

- 40 Members of the Labour Group;
- 22 Members of the Conservative Group; and
- 1 Independent Member

2. Council is requested to agree that the Standards Sub-Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee are bodies to which the political balance rules do not apply as set out in section 1. below.

3. Council agrees the allocation of seats as set out in the tables in Appendix A in order to comply with the political balance regulations requiring seats to be allocated proportionately to the political groups on Council.

4. Council agrees that the seat allocations come into effect at Annual Council on 23 May 2023.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

New Governance Arrangements

- 1.1 On 23rd May 2023 the Council is expected to move to an Executive system of governance. This requires the political balance of the Council to be re-calculated based on the new seats allocated to politically proportionate committees.

Waiver of Political Balance Requirements

- 1.2 Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government Regulations 1990 the Council must allocate seats on Committees to give effect to the political balance rules. The Council can only depart from these rules by passing a resolution with no member voting against the resolution.

Standards Sub-Committee

- 1.3 Council is requested to agree that the Standards Sub-Committee is a body to which the political balance rules do not apply. The Sub-Committee has the following duties:
- It is a sub-committee of the Governance Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee set up to hear standards complaints about members in accordance with the procedure for dealing with complaints against members set out in the constitution.
- 1.4 Council agreed on 8 December 2015 to waive the requirements under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for political balance for the Standards Committee, and that each of the two political Groups on the Council shall have two seats on the Committee (with two substitute members for each Group). This arrangement will continue with the Standards Sub-Committee in the new governance arrangements.
- 1.5 Council is requested to agree that the Licensing Sub-Committee is a body to which the political balance rules do not apply. The Sub-Committees meet on an ad hoc basis as and when there is a matter within their terms of reference to be decided. The current practice is that membership is drawn from available members from the parent Licensing & General Purposes Committee.

Licensing Sub-Committee

- 1.6 The membership of the Licensing Sub-Committee is proposed to be any three members of the parent Licensing & General Purposes Committee.
- 1.7 Appendix A details further special statutory bodies or informal or consultative bodies or committees where proportionality requirements do not apply:
- Local Pension Board
 - Local Strategic Partnership (Barnet Partnership Board)

- Children's Partnership Board
- Safer Communities Partnership Board

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 A recalculation of political balance is required for the reasons set out in section 1.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Annual Council on 23rd May 2023 are expected to make appointments to the seats on the committees and sub-committees listed in Appendix A.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 N/A

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

5.2.1 There are no resource implications.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 N/A

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 As set out in Appendix A and in sections 1.2 and 1.3 above.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 N/A

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 N/A

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 N/A

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 N/A

5.9 **Insight**

5.9.1 N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Item 12.3, Report from Constitution, Ethics & Probity – Standards Regime: [Agenda for Council on Tuesday 8th December, 2015, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)