

Harlingey Council

Report for:	Council 17 January 2013	Item number	
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Title:	Changes to Political Groups, Appointments to Committees & Sub Bodies & Appointments to outside bodies
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Report authorised by :	Chief Executive <i>Nur Balkis</i>
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Lead Officer:	Clifford Hart, Democratic Services Manager Tel: 0208 489 2920
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Ward(s) affected: N/A	Report for Key/Non Key Decision: N/A
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1. Describe the issue under consideration

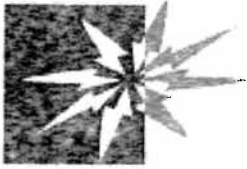
- To note the changes to Political Groups as notified to the Chief Executive.
- To agree changes to Committee memberships.
- To agree changes to appointments to outside bodies

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

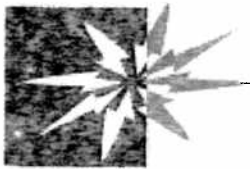
- 3.1 That the changes to Political Group composition as detailed in paragraphs 4.1 be noted.
- 3.2 That the resultant changes to Council body membership, and outside bodies membership as detailed in paragraph 4.6 be agreed.



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4. Background information

- 4.1 The Assistant Chief Executive was notified on 7 December 2012 of a change to Political Groups within Haringey. With effect from that date the Labour Group whip has been withdrawn from Councillor Stanton.
- 4.2 There is no requirement to offer a seat to a single member as they do not constitute a "political group" under the definition in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (S.I. 1553) Regulation 8.
- 4.3 The Annual Meeting in May appointed Committees of the Council in accordance with Article 4.02 of the Constitution. Wherever possible bodies have been constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 in terms of political balance. In light of the changes to the political groups the proportionality split is now as follows: Labour Councillors constitute 58% of the available seats on the Council; Liberal Democrat Councillors occupy 37 %, and the Independent Members occupy the remaining 5% of seats. Where practicable the allocation of seats on Committees should be in line with the proportion of seats on the Council held by the political groups. The rule about proportionate allocation of seats on bodies overall takes precedence over the rule about proportionate allocation on any individual body.
- 4.4 In calculating the allocation of seats on Committees, the following bodies were excluded because they are excluded from the statutory rules on political balance:
- the Cabinet and its subordinate bodies
 - the disciplinary pool
 - Licensing Sub-Committees
 - other Committees where membership is determined on the basis of electoral ward represented (eg. Area Committees)
- 4.5 The number of seats currently available on Committees and Sub-Committees is 55. Of this number 33 or 60.00% are allocated to the Labour Group and 22 or 40.00% to the Liberal Democrat Group.



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- 4.6 The previous appointments to Committees and Sub Committees and appointments of Chairs are as detailed in the attached appendix 1. Changes to appointments can be made at any stage during the Municipal Year with the changes being reported to the Council as appropriate. In respect of current membership of Standards Committee it is proposed that Councillor Stanton be replaced by Councillor Reith. In respect of appointments to outside bodies it is proposed that Councillor Stanton be replaced by Councillor Ejiolor on Homes for Haringey and its sub body as shown in the attached appendix 2.

5. Comments of the Head of Legal Services and Legal Implications

- 5.1 The report sets out those Council bodies to which the political balance rules apply. The 1989 Act requires political balance in the distribution of seats on committees to be undertaken "so far as is reasonably practicable" thus recognising that a mathematically precise split between political parties cannot always be achieved.
- 5.2 The rules in section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require that a party with a majority on full Council shall have a majority of seats on each non-executive body and this rule takes precedence over the rules requiring an exact political balance on those bodies individually and taken as a whole.

6. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer and Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

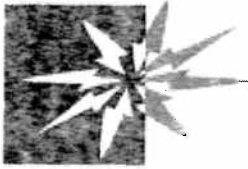
7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Background papers

There are no background papers.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 8.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under S149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to need to:
- tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;



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- foster good relations between people who those characteristics and people who do not.

8.2 Policy and Equalities Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and they comment that the proposals outlined in this report carry no apparent implications for the any aspect of duty outlined above.