

# ***Report to the Council***

**Officer(s):** Joint Chief Executives

**Date:** 28 July 2005

**Item:** 10

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## **1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 – REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE PLACES**

### **Decisions Required:**

**(1) To note that Councillor H Harding (Lower Sheering Ward) and Councillor B Scrutton (Chigwell Village Ward) have issued notice of their wish to join the Conservative Group;**

**(2) To note the Leader of the Conservative Group has issued a notice requesting a review of the allocation of Committee places under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;**

### **Cabinet**

**(3) To note that no changes are required in respect of allocation of seats on the Cabinet;**

### **Ordinary Committees**

**(4) To appoint one Councillor to vacancies on the Licensing Committee and District Development Control Committee on the nomination of the Conservative Group;**

**(5) To make any further appointments on the nomination of the Conservative Group consequent upon recommendation (4) above;**

### **Area Planning Subcommittees**

**(6) To note the appointment of Councillor Mrs H Harding to the membership of the Area Planning Subcommittee C for the remainder of the municipal year;**

**(7) To consider any nominations of the Conservative Group in respect of Area Planning Subcommittee A;**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Panels**

**(8) To note that pro rata entitlements based upon the 11 seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are as follows:**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Current entitlement</b>	<b>New entitlement</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>LRA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Independent</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Labour</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BNP</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**(9) To consider revised appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with pro rata requirements;**

**(10) To request the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review pro rata allocations to Standing Panels in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Rules of the Constitution;**

#### **Joint Consultative Committee**

**(11) To note that no change in allocation of seats are required;**

#### **Housing Appeals Panel**

**(12) To appoint a substitute member to the Housing Appeals Panel on the nomination of the Conservative Group;**

#### **Chairmanships and Vice-chairmanships**

**(13) To note that no change in the allocations to Chairmanships and Vice Chairmanships of Committees, Subcommittees and Panels of the Council is required as part of this review.**

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#### **Report:**

1. (Joint Chief Executives) A review of the pro rata allocations of the Council has been requested by the Conservative Group following recent bye-elections in Lower Sheering and Chigwell Village wards. This has altered the balance of places between the political groups as shown in Annex 1.

#### **Cabinet**

2. No changes are required in relation to the Cabinet.

#### **Review of Ordinary (Aggregated) Committee Memberships**

3. The agreed allocation of places at the Annual Council meeting is shown in Annex 1. The Council allocated places on the basis of there being two ward vacancies and places on Licensing and District Development Committees where therefore left vacant. As can be seen from the Annex these places now fall to the Conservative Group.

#### **Memberships of Other Committees**

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

4. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a membership of eleven Councillors and is currently allocated as shown in Annex 2 to this report. The effect of the bye-elections means that pro rata based on eleven does not exactly allocate seats (i.e. there are 12 allocations to 11 available seats). From an examination of the rounding margins (Annex 2 – table 2) the BNP Group have the least right to the over-allocated seat by virtue of having the largest margin of rounding up. Allocation to this Committee should therefore be made in accordance with recommendation (8) above.

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Standing Panels**

5. The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules provide that Standing Panels should have the minimum memberships to allow each group to have representation yet maintain pro rata proportionality. As the new Group strengths on the Council do not work with eleven members, the Council should request the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review memberships at its next meeting.

#### **Joint Consultative Committee**

6. The membership of the Joint Consultative Committee remains un-changed.

#### **Area Planning Subcommittees**

7. The new Councillor for Lower Sheering, Councillor Harding automatically fills the vacancy left on Area Planning Subcommittee 'C' by virtue of being a local ward member.
8. Unless there are any changes in membership to be proposed by the Conservative Group, no changes are required to the membership of Area Planning Subcommittee 'A' as Councillor Murray has confirmed that he does not wish to be nominated to that Sub-Committee.

#### **Housing Appeals Panel**

9. At the annual meeting no substitute appointment was made by the Conservative Group. The Council should make that appointment at this meeting.

#### **Chairmanships and Vice Chairmanships**

10. Allocation of the Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships are unaffected by the bye-elections (Annex 3 refers).

## Aggregated Committee Memberships

Political Affiliation	Places	lab	Cons	Lib Dem	LRA	IND	Vacancy	Ind Soc	BNP	Totals
<b>No of Councillors as of 4 July 2005</b>		4	26	14	6	4	0	1	3	58
<b>Percentage Strength on Council</b>		6.897	44.828	24.138	10.345	6.897	0.000	1.724	5.172	100.000
<b>Overall % places</b>		3.517	22.862	12.310	5.276	3.517	0.000	0.879	2.638	
<b>Allocations agreed at May 2005 Annual Council Meeting:</b>										
<b>Cabinet</b>	9	1	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	9
<b>Cttees:</b>										
<b>Licensing Committee</b>	15	1	6	4	1	1	1	0	1	15
<b>Housing Appeals Panel</b>	5	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
<b>Staff Appeals Panel**</b>	5	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	5
<b>Complaints Panel: (pool)*</b>	11	1	5	2	1	1	0	0	1	11
<b>District Development Control</b>	15	1	6	4	1	1	1	0	1	15
<b>Total Seats allocated at May 2005 Annual Meeting</b>	51	4	21	12	5	4	2	0	3	51
<b>Required Seat allocations based on recent bye elections:</b>	51	4	23	12	5	4	0	1	3	52*
<b>Changes Required</b>		0	+2	0	0	0	-2	+1	3	

\* allocation exceed available places

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Allocations

Table 1

Political Affiliation	Places	lab	Cons	Lib Dem	LRA	IND	Vacancy	Ind Soc	BNP	Totals
<b>Non aggregated committees</b>										
<b>Agreed allocations from the May 2005 Annual Council</b>										
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>	11	1	4	3	1	1	0	0	1	11

Table 2

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Revised Allocations following Bye-elections	Pro rata places	Rounded places	Rounding margin
<b>Group:</b>			
Labour	0.759	1	0.241
Conservative	4.931	5	0.069
Liberal Democrat	2.655	3	0.345
Loughton Residents Assoc.	1.138	1	-0.138
Independent	0.759	1	0.241
Independent Soc	0.190	0	-0.190
British National Party	0.569	1	0.431**
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11.001</b>	<b>12*</b>	

\* Rounded places exceeds current places

\*\* Highest rounding margin

