

Committee: Council

Date: 8 July 2020

Subject: Review of proportionality and changes to Membership of Committees

Lead officer: Louise Round, Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership

Contact officer: Louise Fleming, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Recommendations:

That the Council:

1. Approves the allocation of seats to political groups as set out at Appendix A
 2. Approves the appointment of nominations to those seats as set out in Appendix B and paragraph 2.2 below.
 3. Notes the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Council.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Council has a statutory duty to review the representations of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure that a political balance is secured on council committees so as to reflect the overall political composition of the council.
- 1.2. This report also asks Council to note the changes made to committee memberships under delegated authority since the publication of the agenda for the last ordinary Council meeting on 5 February 2020.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 Following the move of Councillor Carl Quilliam from the Liberal Democrat group to the Labour Group, in consultation with the political group leaders, officers have carried out a review of proportionality and the proposed allocation of seats to committees calculated to reflect the change in the political composition of the Council and is attached at Appendix A. In essence, it is proposed that the size of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel is reduced from 12 to 10 members.
- 2.2 The proposed membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel is attached at Appendix B and is for ratification by Council.
- 2.1. The following membership changes have been made by the Chief Executive under his delegated authority in accordance with section 1.4 of part 3F of the Constitution since the last ordinary meeting of the Council:

Committee	Member resigning	Replaced by	Date
Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery Board	Stan Anderson	Marsie Skeete	31 January 2020
Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	Marsie Skeete	Owen Pritchard	10 February 2020
Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	Owen Pritchard	Mary Curtin	21 February 2020
Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	Mary Curtin	Owen Pritchard	3 March 2020
Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery Board	Marsie Skeete	Stan Anderson	3 March 2020
Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	Owen Pritchard	Marsie Skeete	3 March 2020
Planning Applications Committee	John Dehaney (substitute)	Nick Draper (substitute)	19 March 2020
Planning Applications Committee	Carl Quilliam (substitute)	Eloise Bailey (substitute)	17 June 2020
Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel	Carl Quilliam	tbc	25 June 2020

2.4 The appointments to Committees and other bodies, including the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of those committees and other bodies, were agreed at the annual meeting of the Council on 15 May 2019. These will remain in place until the next annual meeting of the Council on 16 September 2020, which was postponed following the publication of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 which removed the requirement to hold an annual meeting in March, April or May.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The information regarding membership changes in this report complies with legal and statutory requirements. Council is required to accept nominations made by political groups to the seats allocated to them.

- 5.2. The Housing and Local Government Act 1989 contains provisions relating to the political balance on committees, the duty to allocate seats to political groups and the duty to give effect to allocations.
- 5.3. The Council has a statutory duty to review the representations of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure so far as is reasonable practicable that a political balance is secured on council committees so as to reflect the overall political composition of the council.
- 5.4. The requirement to allocate seats must be made in accordance with the following statutory principles:
 - a) All of the seats are not to be allocated to the same political group.
 - b) The majority of the seats must be allocated to the political group with a majority on the Council.
 - c) Subject to the two principles listed above, the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees of the Council allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to that on full Council.
 - d) Subject to a) to c) above, that on each individual committee, the number of seats allocated to each group is proportionate to the number of seats that group holds on the Council

6 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- 9.1 Appendix A – Allocation of committee places to political groups
- 9.2 Appendix B – Nominations to committee places

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Documents from the authorised officer confirming approval of the membership changes agreed under delegated authority.

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