

Decision Maker: COUNCIL

Date: Monday 17 July 2023

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND PROPORTIONALITY

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: All

1. Reason for decision/report and options

- 1.1 The Council is required to carry out a review of proportionality as soon as practicable when changes likely to alter proportionality occur. Cllr Jonathan Laidlaw is now sitting as independent, not as a member of the Conservative group, so proportionality has been reviewed and some changes are proposed by the Conservative group.
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2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

(1) The changes to proportionality involving creation of three additional Sub-Committee seats be agreed as set out in section 3 of this report.

(2) The following changes to Committee membership be agreed –

- (i) Councillor Michael Tickner replaces Cllr Jonathan Laidlaw on Executive, Resources and Contracts PDS Committee;
- (ii) Councillor Andrew Lee replaces Councillor Jonathan Laidlaw on General Purposes and Licensing Committee;
- (iii) Councillor Dr Sunil Gupta replaces Councillor Jonathan Laidlaw on Audit and Risk Management Committee;
- (iv) A Conservative Councillor (to be confirmed) should replace Councillor Jonathan Laidlaw on Pensions Committee.

(3) It is noted that Cllr Jonathan Laidlaw will be appointed to Industrial Relations Sub-Committee and Rights of Way Sub-Committee by General Purposes and Licensing Committee and to Plans 1 Sub-Committee by Development Control Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
(5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Representation
 4. Total current budget for this head: £1.1m
 5. Source of funding: Revenue Budget
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (*current and additional*): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement: Local Government & Housing Act 1989
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Council decisions are not subject to call-in
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
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Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
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Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: Not Applicable
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Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (*current and projected*): Not Applicable
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Council is required to carry out a review of committee seats at least annually in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, and to review proportionality as soon as practicable when changes likely to alter proportionality occur. Cllr Jonathan Laidlaw is now sitting as independent, not as a member of the Conservative group, so proportionality has been reviewed and some small changes are proposed by the Conservative group to address this.
- 3.2 The proposed changes involve adding three new Sub-Committee seats (on Industrial Relations Sub-Committee, Rights of Way Sub-Committee and Plans 1 Sub-Committee), to be allocated to Councillor Laidlaw as an independent. Councillor Laidlaw will stand down from his membership of Executive, Resources and Contracts PDS Committee, General Purposes and Licensing Committee, Audit and Risk Management Committee and Pensions Committee and be replaced on these Committees by nominees of the Conservative group. The overall effect is that the number of seats rises from 202 to 205. All groups will retain the same number of seats, and will have fair representation, but the three additional seats are allocated to Councillor Laidlaw as an independent Member, matching the three seats already allowed to Councillor Slator, the other independent Member.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities, where Members are divided into political groups, to review periodically the representation of the political groups on their committees and sub-committees to ensure a political balance. Where there is a potential change to proportionality, this must be reviewed as soon as reasonably practicable.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children, Policy, Financial, Personnel, Legal, Procurement, Property, Carbon reduction, Local Economy/Health and Wellbeing/Customer Impact, Ward Councillor views.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report to full Council on 10 May 2023 – Proportionality and Appointment of Committees