

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL – 12 JUNE 2017  
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REVIEW OF POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

**1     Executive Summary**

- 1.1     The purpose of this report is to further review the political proportionality of Member appointments to Committees, which was agreed at the Annual Council meeting on 22 May, to take account of the Hatfield Villages Ward by-election on 8 June 2017.
- 1.2     This special meeting of the Council was convened to enable this further review to take place.

**2     Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1     That the review of political proportionality of Member appointments to Committees and the proposed changes to the allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.
- 2.2     That changes to the appointment of the membership of Committees in accordance with the revised allocation of seats, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved.

**(Note: Appendices A and B will be published and circulated after the Hatfield Villages Ward by-election on 8 June 2017).**

**3     Explanation**

- 3.1     The Annual Council meeting on 22 May approved the review of political proportionality of Member appointments to Committees and changes to the allocation of seats following the Panshanger Ward by-election on 4 May 2017.
- 3.2     This was a temporary review for the period up to the Hatfield Villages Ward by-election on 8 June 2017 as there is a vacant seat on the Council until then.
- 3.3     It is necessary to further review the political proportionality after the by-election when the vacancy will be filled. **This will be set out in Appendix A which will be published and circulated after the by-election.**
- 3.4     As the further review has to be reflected in the size and constitution of Committees, it is also necessary for changes to be made to Member appointments to Committees. **These will be set out in Appendix B which will also be published and circulated after the by-election.**
- 3.5     The Council has a legal duty to secure the balance of the different political groups on the authority.

## **Implications**

### **4     Legal Implication(s)**

- 4.1     Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 set out the Council's legal duty to reflect the overall political composition of the Council in the appointment of Members to Committees.

### **5     Financial Implication(s)**

- 5.1     None

### **6     Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1     None

### **7     Security and Terrorism Implication(s)**

- 7.1     None

### **8     Procurement Implication(s)**

- 8.1     None

### **9     Climate Change Implication(s)**

- 9.1     None

### **10    Link to Corporate Priorities**

- 10.1    The subject of this report is linked to a statutory requirement.

### **11    Equality and Diversity**

- 11.1    An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out in connection with the proposals that are set out in this report.

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Title                            (*Governance Services Manager*)  
Date                             (31 May 2017)

Background papers to be listed (if applicable)

None

Appendices

Appendix A – Revised Political Proportionality Allocation of Committee Seats

Appendix B – Appointment of the membership of Committees

**(to be circulated separately)**