

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

20 October 2015

Appointments to Committees, Boards and Other Fora 2015/16

1. Summary Statement

- 1.1 The Council at its Annual Meeting on 26th May, 2015 approved the constitution of committees, boards and other fora for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year and assigned members to those roles and bodies.

Blackheath Ward By-Election

- 1.2 Members will be aware that a by-election was held on 10th September 2015 for a single vacant seat in the Blackheath Ward of the Borough.

There is a duty on the Council to review proportionality when changes occur in its composition. At the by-election, the Labour Party held the one seat and the composition of the Council as a whole therefore remains as follows:-

Labour	69
Independent Members	2
UK Independence	1

- 1.3 Council is accordingly invited to consider the appointment of the newly elected member to seats on the Council's Committees, Boards and other fora.
- 1.4 Rather than remove elected members from any committees at this point in the Municipal Year, and as proportionality is unaffected due to the composition of the Council, Council may wish to consider increasing the number of seats on a committee or a Scrutiny Board by one additional seat for the remainder of the municipal year to accommodate the newly elected member. The number of seats on committees is indicated in the Appendix to this report.

Deputy Town Lead – West Bromwich

- 1.5 As West Bromwich is the largest area of the Borough, it contains a large number of organisations and community groups that the Town Lead and Deputy Town Lead have to meet with.

This is proving difficult, both in terms of time commitment and availability of the existing members. In order to meet the demand for engagement with members at Town level it is proposed to establish a second Deputy Town Lead for West Bromwich.

Land and Asset Management Committee

- 1.6 The Council established a Land and Asset Management Committee at its Annual Meeting on 26th May, 2015 and it is now considered that the Committee would benefit from a change in its membership to draw on the experience of Councillor Eling (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources). It is now proposed to change the membership of the Committee and replace Councillor Crompton (Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment) with Councillor Eling.

Further details are attached for your information

2. Recommendation

The Council is invited to:-

- 2.1 consider the appointment of the newly elected member for the Blackheath ward, to seats on the Council's Committees, Boards and other fora for the remainder of the Municipal Year.
- 2.2 appoint a second Deputy Town Lead member for West Bromwich for the remainder of the Municipal Year.
- 2.3 Revise the membership of the Land and Asset Management Committee by the replacement of Councillor Crompton (Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment) with Councillor Eling (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources), for the remainder of the Municipal Year.
- 2.4 Note that, in view of the current political make up of the authority, the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 do not apply.

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3. Strategic Resource Implications

- 3.1 In accordance with the Members' Allowance Scheme, approved at the Annual Meeting of Council on 26th May 2015, a Deputy Town Lead Member is paid a special responsibility allowance of £5,256.
- 3.2 Where a member undertakes duties which could entitle him/her to more than one SRA under the Scheme then he/she shall receive only the higher allowance. Where a member does not have, throughout the whole of a year, any such responsibilities as entitle him/her to a special responsibility allowance, his/her entitlement shall be to payment pro rata to the length of time he/she holds the special responsibility.
- 3.3 Consequently, the cost to the Council will depend on the person appointed to the position and will therefore be between zero and £2,700 which will be offset against the £100,000 savings identified by the review of members' allowances approved at the annual meeting of Council on 26th May, 2015.
- 3.4 There is no cost in relation to the appointment of members to the Council's committees, boards or other fora.

4. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 4.1 This report invites the Council to amend its political organisation taking into account the requirements of its Constitution introduced under the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended). The Constitution prescribes the issues that the Council should address in terms of the identification of the person(s) or bodies it wishes to carry out its functions as a local authority and the portfolios and terms of reference for those persons and bodies.
- 4.2 The Council's Constitution came into full effect from 1 September, 2002 and has been amended periodically to keep pace with the drive for change and improvement and in response to Government regulations, statute and custom and practice.
- 4.3 Proportionality in relation to the appointment of members to fora is governed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The appointment of members to committees and other fora falls within the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

4.4 The Members' Allowances Scheme is in accordance with the statutory provisions in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

5. Implications for the Council's Scorecard Priorities

The Council's decision making structures are designed to support the delivery of the Council's Scorecard Priorities and in particular 'Great Performance'.

6 Background Details

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 - Section 15 – Political Balance on Committees

Section 15 of the Act provides, amongst other things, that where a Local Authority is divided into different political groups, it will have regard to the allocation to the different political groups on the Council, of all of those seats on any ordinary committee, sub-committee and Joint Authorities established pursuant to Part IV of the Local Government Act 1985.

6.1 The regulations provide for a political group to comprise two or more elected members of a local authority.

6.2 On the information which has been made available to the Director – Governance at the time of production of this report, the political balance of the Council is:-

Labour	69
Independent Members	2
UK Independence	1
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	72
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6.3 On the basis of the above figures and in the absence of any notification to the Proper Officer regarding the formation of any other political group at the time of production of this report, Sandwell is a single party authority and the proportionality provisions will not apply.

6.4 A political group represented on the Council may choose to allocate a proportion of its allocation of seats to an elected member who is not in a political group on the Council, without affecting proportionality.

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Constitution of Boards, Committees and Other Fora 2015/2016

	Lab	Total
Scrutiny Boards		
Budget and Corporate	7	1 Chair + 6 members
Health and Adult Social Care	10	1 Chair, 2 Vice Chairs + 7 members
Jobs, Economy and Enterprise	7	1 Chair, 1 Vice Chair + 5 members
Housing	7	1 Chair, 1 Vice Chair + 5 members
Community Safety, Highways and Environment	8	1 Chair, 1 Vice Chair + 6 members
Children's Services and Education	9	1 Chair, 1 Vice Chair, 7 members + 4 non-elected representatives
Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector	7	1 Chair, 1 Vice Chair + 5 members
		55
Constitutional and Quasi-Judicial Committees/Panels		
Audit Committee	5	5 (+ 1 Independent)
Planning Committee	16	16
Licensing Committee	12	12
Licensing (Miscellaneous) Committee	5	5
General Purposes and Arbitration Committee	7	7
Land and Asset Management Committee	7	7
Standards Committee	8	8 (+ 3 Independent)
Chief Officer Terms and Conditions Committee	7	7
Chief Officer Appointments Sub-Committee	2	2
Emergency Committee	7	7
		76
		131