

<b>Item No.</b> 3.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 23 May 2012	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly (Annual Meeting)
<b>Report title:</b>		Establishment of Committees, Community Councils and Other Constitutional Issues – 2012/13	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council assembly consider the following constitutional issues for the coming municipal year 2012/13:
  - Proportionality/size and composition of committees
  - Establishing the overview and scrutiny committee
  - Establishing a licensing committee
  - Establishing the community councils
  - Appointment of chairs and vice chairs
  - Establishing a standards committee
  - Establishing the council's panels including council assembly business panel, constitutional steering panel and voluntary bodies appointments panel
  - Agree dates of council assembly meetings for 2012/13
  - Appointments to Local Government Association General Assembly
  - Urgency committee
2. That council assembly notes the appointment of political group leaders, deputies and whips (see Appendix 1).

### **Proportionality/size and composition of council committees**

3. That the size and composition of the council's regulatory and other committees be established in accordance with the number of seats each political group has on the council as a whole – this is known as “proportionality”.

The tables below are based on the assumption that the same committees are established in 2012/13 as existed in 2011/12, subject to the change in membership of the audit and governance committee and the changes to the standards regime. For 2012/13 the annual meeting is required to consider taking two separate decisions on the proportionality of committees:

- 1) Committees which will operate until 30 June 2012 whilst the current standards regime applies (see Table 1)
- 2) Committees from 1 July 2012 when the new standards regime takes effect (see Table 2).

**Table 1 - Until 30 June 2012: Total number of seats: 28**

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Committee 1 Appointments Committee	7	4	3	0
Committee 2 Planning Committee	7	4	3	0
Committee 4 Audit and Governance Committee	7	4	2	1
Committee 5 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	4	3	0
Total	28	16	11	1

*Note on Table 1: In the period until the end of June 2012, the annual meeting would establish a standards committee comprised of six councillors, with seats allocated to political groups as follows:*

- *Labour 3 places*
- *Liberal Democrat 2 places*
- *Conservatives 1 place.*

*See recommendations 9 to 13 below.*

**Table 2 - From 1 July 2012: Total number of seats 37**

Committee	Total	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
Committee 1 Appointments Committee	7	4	3	0
Committee 2 Planning Committee	7	4	3	0
Committee 3 Standards Committee	9	5	3	1
Committee 4 Audit and Governance Committee	7	4	2	1
Committee 5 Corporate Parenting Committee	7	4	3	0
Total	37	21	14	2

*General notes on committees:*

1. *The size and composition of the council's regulatory and other committees known as "ordinary committees" is set out above. The proportionality is based on the total number of seats compared to the overall allocation of seats each political group has on the council. As the Labour Group has an overall majority on the council, it has been allocated a majority on each committee. The total number of seats on individual committees has had to be adjusted to ensure an overall proportionate allocation and ensure a majority on each committee.*
2. *Council assembly is exercising a matter reserved to it in Part 3A*

*(4) of the constitution to establish committees. It is for council assembly to agree the committees it wishes to establish, to set the total number of seats and allocate them to the committees numbered 1 to 5 in the table above.*

3. *At least one member of the cabinet shall serve on the appointments committee.*
4. *The constitution states no more than one member of the cabinet may be a member of the audit and governance committee and no cabinet member may chair the committee. The chair may be a deputy cabinet member as this role does not include the exercise of any delegated powers. No more than one member of the overview and scrutiny committee may be a member of the audit and governance committee and no member of the overview and scrutiny committee may chair the committee. In 2011/12 no members of the cabinet sat on the audit and governance committee and Councillor Toby Eckersley was the overview and scrutiny committee member on the committee.*

#### **Overview and scrutiny committee**

4. That council assembly establishes an overview and scrutiny committee, with a total of 11 seats with the following proportionate allocation of seats:
  - 6 Labour
  - 4 Liberal Democrat
  - 1 Conservative.

- Notes:*
1. *The current overview and scrutiny procedure rules provide that the overview and scrutiny committee will consist of the chair, vice chair and the chairs of the scrutiny sub-committees provided that the proportionality rules are not compromised. Each political group is permitted to nominate members who are not cabinet members should it be necessary to maintain proportionality and/or if there are fewer chairs of scrutiny sub-committees than places on the overview and scrutiny committee. In 2011/12 council assembly constituted a committee of this size and allocation of seats*
  2. *The overview and scrutiny committee and any sub-committee which scrutinises the council's education functions will contain in its membership four voting education representatives in addition to its councillor members, comprising one Church of England, one Roman Catholic Church and two parent governor representatives.*
  3. *No member of the cabinet shall serve on any scrutiny committee.*

#### **Community councils**

5. That in line with the council assembly decision of 29 February 2012, the community councils be established as set out below:
  - Bermondsey and Rotherhithe
  - Borough, Bankside and Walworth

- Camberwell
- Dulwich
- Peckham and Nunhead.

### **Licensing committee**

6. That council assembly establishes a licensing committee with a total of 15 seats with the following allocation of seats:

- 8 Labour
- 6 Liberal Democrat
- 1 Conservative.

*Note: In 2011/12 council assembly agreed to establish the committee on a proportionate basis comprising: 8 Labour, 6 Liberal Democrat and 1 Conservative.*

### **Licensing sub-committee**

7. That council assembly appoints a licensing sub-committee with delegated authority to hear licence applications including Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, street trading and other licensing responsibilities granted by statute. The sub-committee to include members of the licensing committee with a quorum of three members.

### **Appointment of chairs and vice chairs**

8. That council assembly considers whether it wishes to appoint chairs and vice chairs for the following committees and community councils:

#### **Committees**

- Overview and scrutiny committee
- Planning committee
- Licensing committee
- Appointments committee
- Audit and governance committee
- Corporate parenting committee\*
- Standards committee (effective from 1 July 2012)

#### **Community councils**

- Bermondsey and Rotherhithe
- Borough, Bankside and Walworth
- Camberwell
- Dulwich
- Peckham and Nunhead

*Notes: \* In 2011/12 the cabinet member responsible for children's services chaired the corporate parenting committee. Council assembly is asked to formally approve this appointment in 2012/13.*

*All outstanding appointments will be referred to the first meeting of the respective committee or community council in the 2012/13 municipal*

year.

### **Establishing a standards committee (until 30 June 2012)**

9. That until 30 June 2012, a standards committee be established under the Local Government Act 2000.
10. That council assembly notes the current constitution states all political groups must be represented on the standards committee and it should comprise of at least four councillors and up to seven councillors. Council assembly notes the decision in previous years to allocate the councillor membership proportionately. In order to comply with its constitutional requirements, council assembly agrees to establish a standards committee comprising of six councillors and the five independent members up until 30 June 2012. The seats to be allocated to political groups as follows:
  - Labour 3 places
  - Liberal Democrat 2 places
  - Conservatives 1 place.
11. That political groups will be entitled to nominate reserves on the following basis:
  - The number of reserves is equivalent to the number of places on the standards committee.
12. That in accordance with the constitution, the election of chair and vice chair of the standards committee (until 30 June 2012) takes place at its first meeting in the 2012-13 municipal year.
13. That the terms of office of the following independent members be extended to allow them to serve on the standards committee after annual council until 30 June 2012:

#### *Name of independent member and term of office on appointment*

- Peter Bibby - until annual council May 2012 (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Wendy Golding - until annual council May 2012 (2<sup>nd</sup> term).

*Notes:* 1. *The constitution states the standards committee will consist of:*

- *At least four councillors, and up to seven councillors, including at least one member of each political group as defined by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Regulation 8 Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.*
2. *No more than one member of the cabinet may be a member of the standards committee.*
  3. *Guidance states that standards committees need not reflect the political balance of the authority. This is it says because the standards committee should be above party politics and its members need to have the respect of the whole authority, regardless of the governing political party.*

### **Establishing a standards committee (from 1 July 2012)**

14. That it be noted that a new standards committee under the new regime will be established with effect from 1 July 2012 (see recommendation 3).

### **Establishment of the council's panels**

15. That council assembly establishes the following council panels (see paragraph 54 and Appendix 5):
- **Council assembly business panel** – The panel is chaired by the Mayor and also consists of one representative from each political group. The panel acts as an advisory panel to the Mayor on council assembly, including the annual programme and the setting of themes for debate. Groups can nominate a reserve to attend in the absence of a representative.
  - **Constitutional steering panel** – That council assembly agrees to establish a constitutional steering panel comprised of the whip and one other member from the Labour Group and the political whips of the other groups represented on the council.
  - **Pensions advisory panel** – The panel has a composition of members, officers, independent advisors and a trade union representative. The purpose of the panel is to advise the advice to the finance director when performing functions relating to the council's pension scheme.
  - **Voluntary bodies appointment panel** – The panel has a composition of three Labour and two Liberal Democrat members. The panel will be responsible for recommending the appointment of charity trustees to specific Southwark charities and recommending appointments to the position of school governor on local education authority secondary and special school governing bodies. In 2011/12 the panel of five members, which was established by council assembly, comprised three Labour and two Liberal Democrat councillors.

### **Council assembly dates**

16. That council assembly agrees to the following dates for meetings of council assembly and that these dates be fixed in the council calendar for the municipal year 2012/13:

**Table 3 – Dates of council assembly meetings 2012/13**

<b>Council Assembly Meetings 2012/13</b>	<b>Theme</b>
Wednesday 4 July 2012	Health in Southwark
Wednesday 17 October 2012	Opportunities for young people, including youth employment
Wednesday 28 November 2012	Transport in Southwark

<b>Council Assembly Meetings 2012/13</b>	<b>Theme</b>
Wednesday 30 January 2013	Affordable housing and social housing
Wednesday 27 February 2013	Budget and council tax setting
Wednesday 27 March 2013	Tbc
Wednesday 22 May 2013	Annual meeting (Mayor making & constitutional)

### **Council calendar**

17. That the calendar of council meetings for the 2012/13 municipal year ahead as shown at Appendix 6 be noted.

### **Appointments to Local Government Association General Assembly**

18. That council assembly appoints up to three representatives and allocates five votes to the representatives to the LGA General Assembly (see Appendix 7).

### **Other appointments to joint committees/outside bodies**

19. That council assembly notes the cabinet and other committees will make appointments to all other outside committees and bodies for the municipal year 2012/13 as required by part 3S of the constitution.

### **Urgency committee**

20. That the role of the urgency committee between a municipal election and the annual meeting of council assembly be reviewed in light of the post-election period in 2010 and the new executive arrangements. Officers will report to the constitutional steering panel with proposals on future urgency arrangements.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

21. The constitution is updated annually and the recommendations in this report are based on the current constitution and previous decisions of the council. In a number of cases, officers are aware that amendments are likely to be submitted which might impact on the establishment of committees and/or community councils.

### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **Proportionality – the legal position**

22. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 covers the allocation of seats to political groups. It makes no provision for single independent councillors so they do not form part of the proportionality considerations.
23. Seats on committees and sub-committees must be allocated in accordance with the four principles of proportionality contained in sections 15, 16 and 17 of the Local

Government and Housing Act 1989. There is a duty to give effect to the following principles, as far as is reasonably practicable:

- (i) That not all the seats on a committee or sub-committee are allocated to the same political group;
- (ii) That the majority group must have the majority of seats on each committee or sub-committee;

*Note: As the Labour Group has an overall majority on the council, this principle has been applied.*

- (iii) Subject to (i) and (ii) above, it must be ensured that the proportion of each political group's seats of the total number of seats on "ordinary committees" reflects, as closely as possible, their proportion of seats on full council; and,

*Notes: 1. The ordinary committees are appointments, planning, audit and governance and corporate parenting (and with effect from 1 July 2012, the standards committee). The total number of seats on these committees must be allocated as proportionately as is reasonably practicable.*

*2. The licensing committee is appointed under the Licensing Act 2003 and the overview and scrutiny committee is appointed under section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000. Neither committee is an ordinary committee.*

- (iv) Subject to (i) to (iii) above, the proportion of each political group's seats on each committee and sub-committee reflects as closely as possible their proportion of seats on full council.

*Note: This rule applies to all committees, sub-committees and joint committees, except for the licensing committee.*

#### Regulatory and other committees

24. The regulatory and other committees are the "ordinary committees" of the council. In 2012/13 the annual meeting established the following:

- Appointments committee
- Planning committee
- Audit and governance committee
- Corporate parenting committee
- Standards committee (from 1 July 2012 onwards).

25. The total number of seats on the ordinary committees is allocated and then divided between the committees to give each committee as proportionate an allocation as is possible within the overall total. Officers have reviewed the impact on the proportionality calculations on the ordinary committees for 2012/13.

26. Council assembly can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no member votes against this.



### Appointments to seats

27. Section 16(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that it is the duty of an authority or committee to exercise its power to make appointments in such a way as to give effect “to such wishes about who is to be appointed to the seats on that body which are allocated to a particular political group as are expressed by that group”.
28. There is no requirement that a seat allocated to a particular group can only be filled by a member of that group. Therefore, groups have discretion to allocate seats as they wish, including to a member of another group, or an individual councillor or councillors sitting on the council.

### **Consequences of new standards regime and standards committee on proportionality**

29. The Localism Act 2011 (“the Act”) provides for the abolition of the current standards regime including Standards for England, standards committees, the jurisdiction of the First Tier Tribunal over standards of conduct, and a nationally set code of conduct for councillors. Section 27 of the Act places a duty on the council to ensure that its members and co-opted members maintain high standards of conduct and requires such authorities to adopt a code of conduct for their members.
30. Although the Act does not make provision for a ‘standards committee’. Southwark has the power to form a ‘standards committee’ under the Local Government Act 1972. The standards committee has previously indicated that they would wish to recommend to council assembly that Southwark maintain a ‘standards committee’. The committee believed that retaining this committee with the role of maintaining high standards of conduct is the best way of achieving the general duty to “promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members” of the authority.
31. Council assembly may form such a committee and determine its terms of reference. The new roles and functions of the committee are set out in the constitutional report elsewhere on this agenda (see Appendix 4 of the constitutional review report). This committee would be subject to the rules on proportionality as an “ordinary committee”. The ‘new’ standards committee will undertake some of the existing functions other than the conduct regime imposed by the Act.
32. The 1 July 2012 implementation date means that at the annual meeting two standards committees would need to be established. The current standards committee with an independent chair would operate up to 30 June 2012 and from 1 July the new standards committee would take effect with a councillor appointed as chair. The current standards committee is constituted as a separate committee under the Local Government Act 2000, which requires all political groups to be represented on it and under the constitution it must comprise between four and seven councillors. The annual meeting in May 2011 established a standards committee for 2011/12 comprised of six councillors, with seats allocated to political groups as follows:
  - Labour 3 places
  - Liberal Democrat 2 places
  - Conservatives 1 place.

33. The power to appoint members of the committee vests in council assembly and, in previous years, council assembly has appointed members in line with the number of seats allocated to each political group. Not more than one cabinet member may sit on a standards committee.
34. As stated above as an “ordinary committee” the new standards committee would be subject to the rules of proportionality. For the purposes of ordinary committees, this means proportionality is based on the total number of seats on all ordinary committees compared to the overall allocation of seats each political group has on the council. The principles for calculating proportionality require the majority group to hold a majority on each ordinary committee. Officers have considered the effect of this on the overall proportionality of ordinary committees, including the new standards committee. As a result officers would recommend that the committee comprises nine councillors, with the following allocation of places: five Labour, three Liberal Democrat and one Conservative. The increase in the size of the committee is necessary in ensuring that all political groups are represented on the committee. By comparison a smaller committee of seven members would mean only the majority group and the largest opposition group would have seats.

Further information on the new arrangements and options on proportionality is set out in Appendix 3.

#### **Audit and governance committee**

35. The constitution states that the audit and governance committee shall consist of at least three councillors, and up to five councillors, including at least one member of each political group. Council assembly notes the decision last year to allocate the councillor membership proportionately as one of the “ordinary committees”. In order to comply with its constitutional requirements, council assembly is recommended to establish a committee comprising seven councillors in 2012/13. This is in line with the size of other committees of the council and will help ensure that the committee will continue to have representatives from all political groups. The seats to be allocated to political groups as follows:

- Labour 4 places
- Liberal Democrat 2 place
- Conservatives 1 place.

36. CIPFA's guidance (Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities, 2005) states that although audit committees are not mandatory "Audit committees are an essential element of good governance". It goes on to say "Good corporate governance requires independent, effective assurance about the adequacy of financial management and reporting. These functions are best delivered by an audit committee, independent from the executive and scrutiny functions."

#### **Overview and scrutiny committee**

37. The overview and scrutiny committee is not an “ordinary” committee and is considered separately for the purposes of proportionality. Scrutiny sub-committees will be established by the overview and scrutiny committee at its first meeting and it will consider the allocation of places on sub-committees including members who are not part of any political group.

38. Council assembly can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no member votes against this.

### **Community councils**

39. Community councils take decisions about local matters and have some responsibility for decisions in the following key areas: the cleaner, greener, safer capital and revenue programmes, community fund, traffic management and agreeing schemes for the community project bank. Community councils also offer an important mechanism for formal consultation on council wide policies and strategies.
40. Following the decision on the budget by council assembly in February 2012 there will be five community councils areas divided by geographical areas as follows:

**Table 4 - Community councils areas divided by geographical areas**

<b>Name of community council</b>	<b>Members from electoral wards serving on community councils</b>
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	Grange, Livesey (north of the Old Kent Road), Riverside, Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey and Surrey Docks wards
Borough, Bankside and Walworth	Cathedrals, Chaucer, East Walworth, Faraday and Newington wards
Camberwell	Brunswick Park, Camberwell Green and South Camberwell wards
Dulwich	College, East Dulwich and Village wards
Peckham and Nunhead	Livesey (south of the Old Kent Road), Nunhead, Peckham, Peckham Rye and the Lane wards

41. The membership of community councils includes those councillors who are members for the electoral wards wholly contained within the area of each community council. Following the decisions of council assembly in February 2012, the community councils will meet five times a year in 2012/13. Community councils meet in local venues around the borough.

### **Licensing committee**

42. Section 6 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires that each licensing authority must establish a licensing committee of at least 10, but no more than 15 members of the authority. The power to establish the committee rests with council assembly. Council agreed in December 2004 that the licensing committee should comprise 15 members in order to achieve maximum flexibility and provide a sufficient pool of members to ensure quorate sub-committees.
43. There is no requirement in the Licensing Act 2003 that the licensing committee should be proportionate. Council assembly agreed in December 2004 to establish the current committee on a proportionate basis. Council assembly, in 2011/12,

agreed the following allocation of seats: eight Labour, six Liberal Democrat and one Conservative.

44. The Licensing Act 2003 makes no provision to appoint reserve members.
45. The licensing sub-committees consist of three members and a reserve and are called up on when required and membership is based on the allocation process agreed by the licensing committee in December 2007.

#### **Appointment of chairs and vice chairs**

46. With the exception of the standards committee, chairs and vice chairs may be appointed directly by council assembly or the appointments may be delegated to the first meeting of the relevant committee.
47. In the case of the corporate parenting committee, it is proposed that the cabinet member with responsibility for children's services be appointed chair. This is line with the decision of the annual meeting last year.

#### **Independent members on standards committee**

48. At least 25% of the standards committee's membership must be independent. In May 2009, council assembly agreed that the term of office for independent members be four years. Independent members can serve a maximum of two terms.
49. The following independent members have previously been appointed by council assembly and their existing terms of office are set out below:
  - Peter Bibby - until annual council May 2012 (1<sup>st</sup> term)
  - Wendy Golding - until annual council May 2012 (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Mark Roelofsen - until annual council May 2013 (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Bola Ogun - until annual council May 2013 (2<sup>nd</sup> term).

It is intended that existing independent members will continue to serve on the standards committee after annual council until 30 June 2012. However to allow this it is recommended that the terms of office of two independent members, Peter Bibby and Wendy Golding, whose terms expire in May 2012, be extended to allow them to serve on the standards committee after annual council until 30 June 2012.

50. The chair and vice chair are appointed at the first meeting of the existing committee in June 2012. The chair is elected from the independent members of the committee. From July onwards independent members may be co-opted by the new standards committee for a term of one year as non voting co-opted members.

#### **Reserve members**

51. The council assembly, committee and overview and scrutiny procedure rules make provision for the appointment of reserve members to council committees and to scrutiny committees. There is no provision for reserves on the licensing committee or community councils.
52. Each political group can appoint reserve members. The number of reserve members a group can appoint is, with the exception of the overview and scrutiny

committee and standards committee, one less than the number of places the group holds on the committee or sub-committee. If a political group holds only one place on a committee or sub-committee, that group may appoint one reserve member.

53. On the overview and scrutiny committee and the standards committee, the number of reserve members that each political group can nominate is equal to the number of places each group holds on the committee.

### **Establishment of the council panels**

54. Council assembly will consider the establishment and composition of the following council panels (see also Appendix 5):

- **Council assembly business panel** – The panel is chaired by the Mayor and also consists of one representative from each political group. The panel acts as an advisory panel to the Mayor on council assembly matters, including the annual programme and the setting of themes for debate.
- **Constitutional steering panel** – the panel is responsible for reviewing and recommending amendments to the constitution. It is also responsible for making recommendations to council assembly for the award of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough and Honorary Aldermen and to recommend changes to the members' allowances scheme.

In 2011/12 council assembly established a panel with a membership comprising the group whip and one other member from the Labour Group and the whips of the other political groups represented on the council. In accordance with current practice the recommendation clarifies that groups can nominate a reserve to attend in the absence of a representative. Council assembly is also invited to appoint a chair of the constitutional steering panel.

- **Pensions advisory panel** – The panel has a composition of members, officers, independent advisors and a trade union representative. The purpose of the panel is to advise the advice to the finance director when performing functions relating to the council's pension scheme.
- **Voluntary bodies appointment panel** – The panel has a composition of 3 Labour and 2 Liberal Democrat members. The panel will be responsible for recommending the appointment of charity trustees to specific Southwark charities and recommending appointments to the position of school governor on local education authority secondary and special school governing bodies. In 2011/12 the panel of five members, which was established by council assembly, comprised three Labour and two Liberal Democrat.

### **Council assembly dates**

55. A calendar of council assembly meetings for the 2012/13 municipal year has been prepared and is shown in the recommendations. The proposed dates are based on the meetings held in 2011/12.
56. Council assembly is asked to formally agree these dates, in accordance with the relevant statutory provision.

## **Council calendar**

57. A calendar of council meetings for the 2012/13 municipal year ahead has been prepared and is shown at Appendix 6.
58. The calendar includes the dates for school holidays, party conferences and other committed dates. Due to business demands of the service, certain meetings will meet more frequently e.g. cabinet and planning. Cabinet procedure rule 2.1 requires that the cabinet should meet at least ten times per year, therefore cabinet meetings are scheduled in line with this requirement. Scrutiny sub-committees are indicated by a number in the draft calendar, pending their establishment by the overview and scrutiny committee.
59. In respect of meetings other than council assembly, this calendar is subject to amendments, additions and cancellations. The calendar is regularly updated throughout the year and is published on the council's website.

## **Appointments to Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly**

60. In 2011, due to increased financial constraints council assembly appointed two representatives to the Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly and allocated 5 votes amongst the two representatives. In 2010 council assembly appointed Councillors Peter John (3 votes) and Anood Al-Samerai (2 vote). In 2011 council assembly is asked to appoint up to three representatives and allocate 5 votes (see Appendix 7). The LGA encourages local authorities with three or four representatives to allocate at least one position and vote to a minority group representative.

## **Appointments to outside bodies and joint committees**

61. Government guidance states that appointments to outside bodies and joint committees are "local choice" functions. As such, the cabinet should make appointments that correspond to functions for which the executive has responsibility (e.g. housing, education, social services, regeneration, etc). Council assembly agreed in 2003 that appointments to outside bodies, where they are not a function of the executive or delegated to any other body, should be the responsibility of standards committee or other delegated body.
62. The nomination of representatives to serve on the various London Councils committees and forums is normally the responsibility of the cabinet, as a local choice function. However, as the deadline for nominations is 1 June 2012 council assembly is asked to agree the nominations for the year 2012/13 (see separate report).

## **Urgency committee**

63. The urgency committee, and sub-committees, function during an interim period between a municipal election and council assembly to exercise all the function of the council, that are not reserved by law to council assembly for decision, in cases where in the opinion of the chief executive it is necessary to act urgently. The urgency sub-committees consider planning and licensing applications and standards local filter issues. However, in light of the post-election period in 2010 and the new leader arrangements this is currently being reviewed. The next

borough wide elections are in 2014. Officers will report to the constitutional steering panel with future proposals.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Appointment of Leader and Executive, Establishment of Committees and Other Constitutional Issues 2009-10 Council Assembly May 2009 report	160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Ian Millichap 020 7525 7225

## APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix 1	Political Group Leaders, Deputies and Whips (to be circulated separately)
Appendix 2	Regulatory and Other Committees - Appointments 2012/13
Appendix 3	Proportionality – Standards Committee and Ordinary Committees – Summary of decisions and options for committees to be established in 2012/13
Appendix 4	Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Community Council - Appointments 2012/13
Appendix 5	Panels - Appointments 2012/13
Appendix 6	Council Calendar 2012/13
Appendix 7	Appointments to LGA General Assembly

## AUDIT TRAIL

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<b>Report Author</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
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<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes (included in body of report)
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
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