

## Report to COUNCIL

# Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups

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**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

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### Reason for Decision

The Council is asked to review the political composition of committees and to note the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and under Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Council is asked to constitute and appoint members to serve on the several Committees detailed in the constitution and listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

### Recommendations

- (a) The composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1 be noted.
- (b) The several Committees detailed at paragraph 1.2 and 1.5 be constituted with the Terms of Reference and delegated powers as detailed in the Constitution as amended if the report on the constitution is agreed later in this meeting.
- (c) The number of seats on the various Committees for the 2024/25 Municipal Year be as detailed in paragraph 1.5 .
- (d) Council confirms the allocation of seats to the political groups and makes appointments to fill the seats in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as detailed in Appendix 1 as far as is practicable.

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- (e) Council appoints a Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the various Committees for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 1, except for the Appointments and Appeals Committees and appoints a District Lead and Deputy District Leads for the North and East Districts.
  - (f) The Co-opted Members detailed at paragraph 1.9 of the report be appointed to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board and th Co-optees be given full voting rights in respect of education matters only.
  - (g) Any outstanding appointments to be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

## Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups

### 1 Background

The Council is asked to review the political composition of committees and to note the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

#### 1.1 Political Groups

Council is asked to note that the composition of the political groups, as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, is:-

(i)	The Labour Group	27	Members
(ii)	The Liberal Democrat Group	9	Members
(iii)	The Conservative Group	8	Members
(iv)	Oldham Group	6	Members
(v)	Failsworth Independent Party	2	Members
(vi)	Royton Independents	2	Members
(vii)	The Independent Group	2	Members
(viii)	The Oldham Independents	2	Members

There are 2 Independent Members not aligned to a political group.

- a. The Labour group comprises: Councillors Shah (Leader), Taylor, Mohon Ali, Aslam, Bashforth, Brownridge, Charters, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Goodwin, Harrison, A. Hussain, F. Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Rustidge and Shuttleworth.
- b. The Liberal Democrat Group comprises: Councillors Sykes (Leader), Al-Hamdani, Bishop, Hamblett, Harkness, Kenyon, Marland, Murphy and Williamson.
- c. The Conservative Group comprises: Councillors Sheldon (Leader), Byrne, Adams, Arnott, Lancaster, Quigg, Sharp and Woodvine.
- d. The Oldham Group comprises: Councillors Ghafoor (Leader), Wahid, Zaheer Ali, Azad, Chowhan and Kouser.
- e. The Failsworth Independent Party comprises: Councillors Hobin (Leader) and Hindle.
- f. The Royton Independents comprises; Councillors Hurley (Leader) and Hughes.
- g. The Independent Group will comprise Councillors Hince (Leader) and Navesey
- h. The Oldham Independents comprises: Councillors Akhtar (Leader) and Ibrahim.
- i. Councillors Ball and Wilkinson are independent members not aligned to a political group.

#### 1.2 Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers

Council is asked to constitute and appoint members to serve on the several Committees detailed in the Constitution and listed in Appendix 1 to this report, namely: -

- (i) The Regulatory Committees: -
  - Licensing
  - Planning
  - Appeals
  - Commons Registration

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Traffic Regulation Panel.  
Charitable Trust Committee

- (ii) The Overview and Scrutiny Boards:-
- (iii) The Audit Committee
- (iv) The Standards Committee
- (v) The Employment Committee
- (vi) Appointments Committee

The terms of reference, and delegated powers where applicable, be as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

Council is also asked to ratify the Leader's nominations to the Health and Well-being Board. The Board is not a politically balanced Committee of the Council and is listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

### 1.3 Political Balance

There are four statutory principles of political balance which have to be applied in filling appointments to Committees. These are contained in S15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The principles have to be applied in priority order as follows:-

- (i) That not all seats on the body are allocated to the same political group.
- (ii) That the majority of the seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group are a majority of the Authority's membership.
- (iii) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant Authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that Authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority; and,
- (iv) Subject to paragraphs (i) to (iii) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the same number of all seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority.

The political group sizes as a percentage of the total membership of the Council are:-

Labour Group	$27/60 \times 100 = 45\%$	$119 \text{ seats} \times 45\% = 53.55$	<b>54 seats</b>
Liberal Democrat Group	$9/60 \times 100 = 15\%$	$119 \text{ seats} \times 15\% = 17.85$	<b>18 seats</b>
Conservative Group	$8/60 \times 100 = 13.33\%$	$119 \text{ seats} \times 13.33\% = 16.64$	<b>17 seats</b>
Oldham Group	$6/60 \times 100 = 10\%$	$119 \text{ seats} \times 10\% = 11.90$	<b>12 seats</b>

Failsworth Independent Party	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$119 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 3.96$	<b>4 Seats</b>
The Independent Group	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$119 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 3.96$	<b>4 seats</b>
Royton Independents	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$119 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 3.96$	<b>4 seats</b>
Oldham Independents	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$119 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 3.96$	<b>4 seats</b>

There are 2 Independent Members not within a Group. Unallocated seats will be offered to them .

- 1.3 The application of these percentages to the number of seats on individual Committees gives the following allocation of seats:-

COMMITTEE SIZE	Labour (L)	Liberal Democrat (LD)	Conservative (C)	Oldham Group (OG)	Failsworth Independents (FIP)	The Independent Group (TIG)	Royton Independents (RI)	Oldham Independents (OI)
15	6.75	2.25	2.00	1.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
14	6.30	2.10	1.86	1.40	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46
13	5.85	1.95	1.73	1.30	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43
12	5.40	1.80	1.60	1.20	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39
11	4.95	1.65	1.46	1.10	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36
10	4.50	1.50	1.33	1.00	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33
9	4.05	1.35	1.19	0.90	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29
8	3.60	1.20	1.07	0.80	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26
7	3.15	1.05	0.93	0.70	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23
6	2.70	0.90	0.79	0.60	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19
5	2.25	0.75	0.67	0.50	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
4	1.80	0.60	0.53	0.40	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
3	1.35	0.45	0.40	0.30	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10

- 1.4 Under the political balance rules after these percentages have been applied to the total number of seats on Committees of the Council any remaining seats must be allocated to members who are not Members of any political group. Applying political balance as detailed above, the allocation of seats, to the current committee structure, would be as follows:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>OG</b>	<b>FIP</b>	<b>TIG</b>	<b>RI</b>	<b>OI</b>	<b>Ind</b>
Licensing	15	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0
Planning	14	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Audit Committee	9	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Employment Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Appointments Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Commons Registration	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trust Committee	6	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Standards Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Traffic Regulation Order Panel	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

The above calculation leaves 12 committee places to be allocated.

### 1.5 Adjustment of Seats

In accordance with the rules of political balance , so far as practicable, the number of seats must be allocated to accord with the rules above. It is therefore proposed that the number of seats on the various Committees for the 2024/25 Municipal Year be fixed as follows:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>OG</b>	<b>FI P</b>	<b>TI G</b>	<b>RI</b>	<b>OI</b>	<b>Ind</b>
Licensing	15	7	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	
Planning	14	6	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Audit	9	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Employment Committee	7	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	
Commons Registration	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Appointments Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Charitable Trustee Committee	6	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Standards Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Traffic Regulation Order Panel	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Appeals Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

- a. The Health and Well Being Board is not included in the calculation above. Although the Committee is appointed by Council, the Local Authority (Public Health and Well Being Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provide for the disapplication of Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
  - b. Council is also asked to appoint a District Lead for each District Area and 2 Deputy District Leads for North and East District.
  - c. It is recommended that the standards sub-committee dealing with assessments or hearings consist of 3 members with 1 Member from the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative groups represented on the Standards Committee on the Standards Sub- Committee.
- 1.7 Substitutes are to be appointed by the political groups in accordance with the Substitute Scheme contained in the Constitution. Substitutes for Overview and Scrutiny Boards may be nominated up to a maximum of the number of Members of that Group serving on the Board. Substitutes are not permitted for Licensing. For the Planning Committee, up to 14 substitutes are to be nominated in accordance with the political balance of each Committee. Council is also asked to appoint substitutes to the Traffic Regulation Order Panel and the Audit Committee. For clarity therefore, it is recommended that substitutes are permissible for the Planning Committee, all Overview and Scrutiny boards, Audit Committee and Traffic Regulation Panel and the Substitute Scheme be clarified accordingly.
- 1.8 Council is asked to review the political composition of the Committees; to determine the allocation of seats to political groups; and to make the appointments to fill the seats in

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accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations.

1.9 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Board has Co-opted Members serving as follows:

**Statutory Co-opted Members (with voting rights)**

Cannon Jean Hurlston	Manchester Church of England Diocese
Vacant	Salford Roman Catholic Diocese
Vacant	Parent/Governor Primary School
Vacant	Parent/Governor Secondary Schools

Council is asked to approve that the Co-opted Members listed above be re-appointed. Statutory Co-opted members may attend for the whole of the meeting and may speak on all matters if they so wish.

**2 Options/Alternatives**

2.1 To approve the report.  
Not to approve the report

**3 Preferred Option**

3.1 To approve the report and the committee's composition and membership at Appendix 1.

**4 Consultation**

4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and Councillors.

**5 Financial Implications**

5.1 n/a

**6 Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal comments (Paul Entwistle).

**7 Human Resource Implications**

7.1 There are no human resources issues.

**8 Risk Assessments**

8.1 A risk assessment is not required.

**9 IT Implications**

9.1 There are no IT implications.

**10 Property Implications**

10.1 There are no property implications.

**11 Procurement Implications**



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11.1 There are no procurement implications.

12 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

12.1 There are no environmental or health and safety implications.

13 **Community cohesion, including crime and disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.**

13.1 There are no community cohesion implications.

14 **Equality Impact – including implications for Children and Young Persons**

14.1 N/a

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 No

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 n/a

19 **Background Papers**

The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

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20. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Membership of Committees.