

## Report to COUNCIL

# Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups

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Services

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**10<sup>th</sup> July 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 (to be circulated).

### Recommendations

- (a) That the revised 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.
- (c) The number of seats on the various Committees for the remainder of 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 (to be circulated) as far as is practicable.

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- (e) Council appoints a Chair and Vice Chair of the Appointments Committee
  - (f) 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. Since the last meeting of Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, Councillors Akhtar and Ibrahim have joined the Oldham Group bringing their membership up to 8 members. Therefore, the Oldham Independents Group ceases to exist.

This report is proposing in the consideration of the revised political balance of the authority that the size of three Committee be increased, to ensure appropriate representation. The Planning Committee be increased to 16 members from 14, the Standards Committee be increased to 7 members from 5 and the Appointments Committee be increased to 7 members from 5. Council is also requested to appoint the Chair of the Appointments Committee.

Therefore, the total number of committee and sub-committee seats to be allocated is raised from 119 to 125.

The effects of this are:

1. Labour to be allocated two additional seats on the Planning Committee, one additional seat on the Standards Committee and one additional seat on the Appointments Committee.
2. The Liberal Democrats be allocated a second seat on the Audit Committee
3. The Oldham Group be allocated a place on the Employment Committee plus an additional seat on the Planning Committee, Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board, Place Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board and the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board (these latter four seats were previously allocated to the two Oldham Independent members who have now joined the Oldham Group). This takes them up to 17 seats the same as the Conservative Group.
4. The Failsworth Independent Party cede their place on the Employment Committee to the Oldham Group but gain a place on the Standards Committee. They also cede their place on the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board to the Royton Independents but gain a place on the Licensing Committee.
5. The Independent Group cede their places on the Audit Committee (to the Liberal Democrats) and on the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board (to the non-aligned Independents). The Independent Group have places on the Planning Committee (rather than being ceded one by the Labour group) and on the Appointments Committee.
6. The Royton Independents cede their place on the Licensing Committee (to the Failsworth Independent Party) but gain a place on the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board.
7. The two non-aligned independent members have now (between them) seats on the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board, Audit Committee and Charitable Trust Committee.

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## 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	8	Members
(v)	Failsforth Independent Party	2	Members
(vi)	Royton Independents	2	Members
(vii)	The Independent Group	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), Akhtar, Zaheer Ali, Azad, Chowhan, Ibrahim, Kouser and Wahid.
- e. The Failsforth Independent Party comprises: Councillors Hobin (Leader) and Hindle.
- f. The Royton Independents comprises; Councillors Hurley (Leader) and Hughes.
- g. The Independent Group comprises Councillors Hince (Leader) and Navesey
- h. 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 be circulated) to this report, namely:

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- (i) The Regulatory Committees: -  
Licensing  
Planning  
Appeals  
Commons Registration  
Highway Regulation Committee (formerly TRO 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 requested to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the Appointments Committee.

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	$27/60 \times 100 = 45\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 45\% = 56.25$	<b>56 seats</b>
Liberal Democrat Group	$9/60 \times 100 = 15\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 15\% = 18.75$	<b>19 seats</b>
Conservative Group	$8/60 \times 100 = 13.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 13.33\% = 16.66$	<b>17 seats</b>
Oldham Group	$8/60 \times 100 = 13.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 13.33\% = 16.66$	<b>17 seats</b>
Failsworth Independent Party	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	<b>4 Seats</b>
The Independent Group	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	<b>4 seats</b>
Royton Independents	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	<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)
16	7.20	2.40	2.13	2.13	0.53	0.53	0.53
15	6.75	2.25	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.50
14	6.30	2.10	1.86	1.86	0.46	0.46	0.46
13	5.85	1.95	1.73	1.73	0.43	0.43	0.43
12	5.40	1.80	1.60	1.60	0.39	0.39	0.39
11	4.95	1.65	1.46	1.46	0.36	0.36	0.36
10	4.50	1.50	1.33	1.33	0.33	0.33	0.33
9	4.05	1.35	1.19	1.19	0.29	0.29	0.29
8	3.60	1.20	1.07	1.07	0.26	0.26	0.26
7	3.15	1.05	0.93	0.93	0.23	0.23	0.23
6	2.70	0.90	0.79	0.79	0.19	0.19	0.19
5	2.25	0.75	0.67	0.67	0.16	0.16	0.16
4	1.80	0.60	0.53	0.53	0.13	0.13	0.13
3	1.35	0.45	0.40	0.40	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:-

Committee	Seats	L	LD	C	OG	FIP	TIG	RI	Ind
Planning	16	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	0
Licensing	15	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0

Audit Committee	9	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Employment Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Appointments Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Commons Registration	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trust Committee	6	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Standards Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee (formerly TRO 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>125</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</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 remainder of 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>Ind</b>
Planning	16	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	0
Licensing	15	7	2	2	2	1	1	0	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	2	0	0	0	1
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	1	2	0	0	1	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	5	1	2	2	0	0	1	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Audit	9	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	1
Employment Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	
Commons Registration	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Appointments Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	
Charitable Trustee Committee	6	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1

Standards Committee	<b>7</b>	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	
Highways Regulation Committee (formerly TRO)	<b>5</b>	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	
Appeals Committee	<b>5</b>	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</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. Annual Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> May appointed a District Lead for each District Area and 2 Deputy District Leads for North and East District.
- c. It is proposed that the standards sub-committee, dealing with assessments or hearings, consist of 5 members with 2 Members from the Labour Group and one each from the Liberal Democrat Group, Conservative Group and the Oldham Group who have seats on the Standards Committee.

1.6 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 16 substitutes are to be nominated in accordance with the political balance of each Committee. Council is also asked to appoint substitutes to the Highways Regulation Committee, the Audit Committee and to the four Overview and Scrutiny Boards.

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

1.8 Council is requested to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the Appointments Committee.

## 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



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6.1 There are no legal comments (Paul Entwistle).

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

7.1 N/a

8 **Key Decision**

8.1 No

9 **Key Decision Reference**

9.1 n/a

10 **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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11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Membership of Committees (to be circulated).