

## **Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council**

# **Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups**

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**21<sup>st</sup> May 2025**

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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 of the report be noted.
- (b) The committees detailed in paragraph 1.2 of the report be appointed with the Terms of Reference and delegated powers as detailed in the Constitution.
- (c) The number of seats on the various committees for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, as detailed in paragraph 1.6 of the report be approved.
- (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 2025/26 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 1, except for the Appeals Committee and appoints five District Leads and Deputy District Leads for only 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 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 political groups.
  - (h) Council ratifies the Leader's nominations to the Health and Well-being Board, as listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

## 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)	Labour Group	27	Members
(ii)	Liberal Democrat Group	9	Members
(iii)	Oldham Group	9	Members
(iv)	Conservative Group	5	Members
(v)	Failsworth Independent Party	2	Members
(vi)	The Independent Group	2	Members
(vii)	Royton Independents	2	Members
(viii)	Royton Local Group	2	Members

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

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

#### 1.2 Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers

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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  
Highway Regulation Committee  
Charitable Trust Committee
- (ii) The Overview and Scrutiny Boards:-  
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board  
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board  
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board  
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board
- (iii) The Audit Committee
- (iv) The Standards Committee
- (v) The Appointments Committee
- (v) The Employment Committee

The terms of reference, and delegated powers where applicable, are 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 (L)	$27/60 \times 100 = 45\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 45\% = 56.25$	<b>56 seats</b>
Liberal Democrat Group (LD)	$9/60 \times 100 = 15\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 15\% = 18.75$	<b>19 seats</b>
Oldham Group (OG)	$9/60 \times 100 = 15\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 15\% = 18.75$	<b>19 seats</b>
Conservative Group (C)	$5/60 \times 100 = 8.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 8.33\% = 10.41$	<b>10 seats</b>
Failsworth Independent Party (FIP)	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	<b>4 Seats</b>
The Independent Group (TIG)	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	<b>4 seats</b>
Royton Independents (RI)	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	<b>4 seats</b>
Royton Local Group (RLG)	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	<b>4 seats</b>

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

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

COMMITTEE SIZE	L	LD	OG	C	FIP	TIG	RI	RLG
<b>16</b>	7.20	2.40	2.40	1.33	0.53	0.53	0.53	<b>0.53</b>
<b>15</b>	6.75	2.25	2.25	1.24	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
<b>14</b>	6.30	2.10	2.10	1.16	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46
<b>13</b>	5.85	1.95	1.95	1.08	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43
<b>12</b>	5.40	1.80	1.80	0.99	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39
<b>11</b>	4.95	1.65	1.65	0.91	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36
<b>10</b>	4.50	1.50	1.50	0.83	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33
<b>9</b>	4.05	1.35	1.35	0.74	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29
<b>8</b>	3.60	1.20	1.20	0.66	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26
<b>7</b>	3.15	1.05	1.05	0.58	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23
<b>6</b>	2.70	0.90	0.90	0.49	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19
<b>5</b>	2.25	0.75	0.75	0.41	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
<b>4</b>	1.80	0.60	0.60	0.33	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
<b>3</b>	1.35	0.45	0.45	0.24	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10

- 1.5 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>OG</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>FIP</b>	<b>TIG</b>	<b>RI</b>	<b>RLG</b>	<b>Ind</b>
Planning	16	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Licensing	15	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	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	7	3	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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Standards Committee	7	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

The above calculation leaves 11 committee places to be allocated.

## 1.6 Adjustment of Seats

In accordance with the rules of political balance 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 2025/26 Municipal Year be fixed as follows:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>OG</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>FIP</b>	<b>TIG</b>	<b>RI</b>	<b>RLG</b>	<b>Ind</b>
Planning	<b>16</b>	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Licensing	<b>15</b>	7	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board*	<b>11</b>	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board*	<b>11</b>	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board*	<b>11</b>	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board*	<b>11</b>	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Audit	<b>9</b>	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Employment Committee	<b>7</b>	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Commons Registration	<b>4</b>	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Appointments Committee	<b>7</b>	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Charitable Trustee Committee	<b>6</b>	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Standards Committee	<b>7</b>	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee	<b>5</b>	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Appeals Committee	<b>5</b>	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

The above Calculation ensures as far as is practicably possible equality of seats for groups and Independent Members:-

- The Health and Wellbeing Board is not included in the calculation above. Although the Committee is appointed by Council, the Local Authority (Public Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provide for the disapplication of Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- Council is also asked to appoint a District Lead and for each District Area and 2 Deputy District Leads for North and East District.
- It is recommended that the Standards Sub-Committee dealing with assessments or hearings consist of 5 members, with 2 Members from Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Oldham Group and 1 Conservative to be represented on the Standards Committee on the Standards Sub- Committee.

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- 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 Highway Regulation Committee.
- 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 accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations. Adoption of the proposals requires Council approval with no Member voting against.

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

**Statutory Co-opted Members**

Jean Hurlston	Manchester Church of England Diocese
Vacant	Salford Roman Catholic Diocese
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 not approve the report; however this would impact on the effective governance arrangements within the Council.

**3 Preferred Option**

- 3.1 To approve the report and the committees make up 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 (Alex Bougatef).

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

- 7.1 No

**8 Key Decision**

- 8.1 No

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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.