

Report to COUNCIL

Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services

20th May 2026

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 2026/27 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.

-
- (e) Council appoints a Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the various Committees for the 2026/27 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 the Co-optees be given full voting rights in respect of education matters only.
 - (g) Any outstanding appointments or changes during the municipal year 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	18 Members
(ii)	The Reform UK Group	16 Members
(iii)	The Oldham Group	10 Members
(iv)	The Liberal Democrat Group	6 Members
(v)	The Conservative Group	4 Members
(vi)	Royton Independents	2 Members

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

- a. The Labour group comprises: Councillors Mohon Ali, Aslam, Brownridge, Charters, Chauhan, Harrison, F. Hussain, J. Hussain, Sajed Hussain, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Moores, Nasheen, Rustidge, Shah, Shuttleworth and Taylor.
- b. The Reform UK Group comprises: Councillors Ball, Barnes, Brooks, Eyre, Ford, Hanlon, Jackson, Klonowski, Pinder, Quigg, Robinson, Ruthven, Tarbuck, Taylor, Wilkinson and Williams.
- c. The Oldham Group comprises: Councillors Akhtar, Zaheer Ali, Azad, Chowhan, Ghafoor, Ibrahim, Shabir Hussain, Kouser, Shah Arstan and Sheldon.
- d. The Liberal Democrat Group comprises: Councillors Al-Hamdani, Bishop, Harkness, Kenyon, Murphy and Williamson.
- e. The Conservative Group comprises: Councillors Arnott, Byrne, Sharp and Woodvine.
- f. The Royton Independents comprises; Councillors Hughes and Hurley.
- g. The Independent Group comprises Councillor Hince.
- h. The Failsworth Independent Party comprises Councillor Hobin.
- i. Councillors Hince, Hobin, Navesey and Taleb 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
 - Charitable Trust Committee

- (ii) The Overview and Scrutiny Boards (x4):-
- (iii) The Audit Committee
- (iv) The Standards Committee
- (v) The Employment Committee
- (vi) Appointments Committee
- (vii) Highway Regulation 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 Wellbeing 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	$18/60 \times 100 = 30\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 30\% = 36.30$	36 seats
Reform UK Group	$16/60 \times 100 = 26.66\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 26.66\% = 32.25$	32 seats
Oldham Group	$10/60 \times 100 = 16.66\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 16.66\% = 20.16$	20 seats
Liberal Democrat Group	$6/60 \times 100 = 10\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 10\% = 12.10$	12 seats
Conservative Group	$4/60 \times 100 = 6.66\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 6.66\% = 8.05$	8 seats
Royton Independents	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.02$	4 seats

There are four Independent Member not within a Group. Unallocated seats will be offered to them.

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

Committee Size	Labour (L)	Reform UK (RUK)	Oldham Group (OG)	Liberal Democrats (LD)	Conservatives (C)	Royton Independents (RI)
16	4.80	4.26	2.66	1.60	1.06	0.53
15	4.50	3.99	2.50	1.50	1.00	0.50
14	4.20	3.73	2.33	1.40	0.93	0.47
13	3.90	3.46	2.16	1.30	0.86	0.43
12	3.60	3.20	2.00	1.20	0.80	0.40
11	3.30	2.93	1.83	1.10	0.73	0.37
10	3.00	2.66	1.66	1.00	0.66	0.33
9	2.70	2.40	1.50	0.90	0.60	0.30
8	2.40	2.13	1.33	0.80	0.53	0.27
7	2.10	1.87	1.17	0.70	0.47	0.24
6	1.80	1.60	1.00	0.60	0.33	0.16
5	1.50	1.33	0.92	0.50	0.30	0.15
4	1.20	1.07	0.83	0.40	0.27	0.14
3	0.90	0.80	0.50	0.30	0.17	0.08

- 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	RUK	OG	LD	C	RI	IND
Licensing	15	4	4	3	1	1	1	0
Planning	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0
Audit Committee	9	3	2	2	1	1	0	0
Employment Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0
Appointments Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0
Commons Registration	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trust Committee	6	2	2	1	1	0	0	0
Standards Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Total	121	33	32	22	12	7	1	0

The above calculation leaves 14 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 2026/27 Municipal Year be fixed as follows:-

Committee	Seats	L	R UK	OG	LD	C	RI	IND
Licensing	15	5	4	3	1	1	0	1
Planning	11	3	3	2	1	1	1	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	4	3	2	1	1	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	4	3	2	1	1	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	3	4	2	1	0	1	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	1
Audit	9	3	3	1	1	1	0	0
Employment Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	1
Commons Registration	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Highway Regulation Committee	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Appointments Committee	7	2	2	1	1	1	0	0
Charitable Trustee Committee	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	1
Standards Committee	7	2	2	1	1	1	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
Total	121	36	34	21	13	8	4	6

- 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 5 members, with 1 Member from each of the Labour, Reform UK, Oldham Group, Liberal Democrat and Conservative groups, that are represented on the Standards Committee, be appointed to 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 and Planning Committee 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. Council is also asked to appoint substitutes to the Audit Committee. For clarity therefore, it is

recommended that substitutes are permissible for the Planning Committee, all Overview and Scrutiny boards, Audit Committee, Appointments Committee, Commons Registration Panel and the Highway Regulation Committee, 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 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 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 n/a

7 Equality Impact – including implications for Children and Young People

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.

20. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Membership of Committees.