

Report to COUNCIL

Political Balance Review

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Reason for Decision

Rod Blyth has tendered his resignation as a Councillor. A review of the allocation of seats to political groups is required at, or as soon as practicable when notice is received of a change in the composition of a political group and changes to committee membership relating to political groups.

Recommendations

The Council are requested to:

1. Note and agree the review of political balance and committees as detailed within the report.
2. Agree the composition of the political groups as outlined in the report and that; Councillor Gloster fills the Liberal Democrat Group vacant position on the Planning Committee with Councillor Murphy as second substitute.
3. That appointment to the Labour Group vacancy on the Audit Committee be delegated to the Chief Executive and three Group Leaders.

1 Resignation

Rod Blyth has resigned as a Liberal Democrat Councillor of Oldham Borough Council.

2 Political Groups

2.1 The Council is asked to note the composition of the political groups following Rod Blyth's resignation.

- i. The Labour Group – 46 members
- ii. The Liberal Democrat Group – 8 members
- iii. The Conservative Group – 2 members
- iv. UKIP – 1 Member
- v. Independent – 2 Members

2.2 The allocation of Committees has been reviewed and a change to the proportionality is required as a result of this. Council is asked to agree a total number of seats of 78 rather than 79 as per the Council Report agreed on 12th July 2017.

The political group sizes based on 78 Committee places available as a percentage of the total membership of the Council are:-

Labour Group	$46/59 \times 100 = 77.96\%$	$78 \text{ seats} \times 77.96\% = 60.80$	61 Seats
Liberal Democrat Group	$8/59 \times 100 = 13.55\%$	$78 \text{ seats} \times 13.55\% = 10.56$	11 Seats
Conservative Group	$2/59 \times 100 = 3.42\%$	$78 \text{ seats} \times 3.42\% = 2.66$	3 Seats
UKIP	$1/59 \times 100 = 1.69\%$	$78 \text{ seats} \times 1.69\% = 1.32$	1 Seats
Independent	$1/59 \times 100 = 1.69\%$	$78 \text{ seats} \times 1.69\% = 1.32$	1 Seat
Independent	$1/59 \times 100 = 1.69\%$	$78 \text{ seats} \times 1.69\% = 1.32$	1 seat

Based on a total number of Committee Seats of 78 the table below details the changes in Committee Membership for the Municipal Year 2017/18 from those already agreed at the annual meeting on the 17th May 2017 and 12th July 2017.

Committee	Seats	L	LD	C	U	I	I
Licensing	14	11	1	1	0	1	0
Planning	14	10	2	1	1	0	0
O&S Performance & Value for Money Select Committee	8	6	1	1	0	0	0
O&S Management Board	8	6	1	0	0	0	1
Audit Committee	9	8	1	0	0	0	0
Commons Registration Committee	5	4	1	0	0	0	0

Selection Committee	5	4	1	0	0	0	0
Local NJC	7	6	1	0	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trustee Committee	5	4	1	0	0	0	0
Total	78	61	11	3	1	1	1

The Liberal Democrat Group lose 2 seats on Committees, 1 place on Licensing Committee and 1 place on the Audit Committee. Council is asked to agree the changes and the appointment of Councilor Gloster to the Planning committee vacancy and a second sub on planning for the Liberal Democrat Group to be Councillor Murphy.

Councillor Turner will lose her place on the Audit Committee.

A seat is created for a Labour Group Member on the Audit Committee. Council is asked to delegate the filling of the vacancy to the Chief Executive in consultation with the three Group Leaders.

Appendix 1 to the report details the requested changes.

Appendix 1

PLANNING COMMITTEE					
Council Members 14	Lab 10	Lib Dem 2	Con 1	UKIP 1	Quorum 4
Chair: Councillor S Bashforth			Vice Chair: Councillor Shuttleworth		
Lab		Lib Dem		Con	UKIP
Iqbal	Ali	Gloster (OSP)		Hudson	Klonowski
Fielding	Jacques	McCann			
Kirkham	Hewitt				
Brock					
Price					

Substitutes (ordered)	Lab	Lib Dem	Con
	Chauhan	Harkness	
	Garry	Murphy	
	Goodwin		
	Mushtaq		
	Ames		

AUDIT COMMITTEE				
Council Members 9	Lab 8	Lib Dem 1		Quorum 3
Chair: Independent Member:			Vice Chair:	
Lab		Lib Dem		
Hewitt	Rehman	Harkness (OSP)		
Salamat	Dean			
Ahmad	Brock			
Ali				
Williams				
Substitutes (ordered)	Lab	Lib Dem		
	Briggs	McCann		
	Iqbal	Gloster		
	Chauhan			
	S. Bashforth			
	Azad			

Cllr Harkness to replace Councillor Blyth on PVFM.