

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report To: Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 17 May 2011

Subject: (1) Membership of Committees 2011/2012
(2) Appointment of Chairs of Committees

Report Of: The City Solicitor

Purpose of Report

To report on the political balance of the Council and to present proposals for the allocation of seats to committees in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15-17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and to deal with the appointment of Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Committees in line with the Council's Constitution.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to make recommendations to Council in relation to -

- i) the allocation of seats to committees;
- ii) the appointment of members to serve on the various committees listed in Paragraph 2.3;
- iii) the appointment of members to serve as chairs of the overview and scrutiny committees, chairs of non-executive committees, and the deputy chairs of the Planning and Highways Committee, and Licensing and Appeals Committee.
- iv) the appointment of a member for the purpose of answering questions at Council on the work of the Standards Committee, in accordance with Article 9 of the Council Constitution.

Financial Consequences for the Revenue Budget None

Financial Consequences for the Capital Budget None

Contact Officer:

Christine Crisp Chief Executive's Department
Email: c.crisp@manchester.gov.uk

0161 234 3027

Background Documents

1. Section 15-17, Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
2. The Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1989.
3. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
4. Council Constitution.

Wards affected: None

Implications for:	Anti-poverty	Equal Opportunities	Environment
	No	No	No
	Employment		
	No		

1. **Background**

- 1.1 In October 2001, the City Council implemented executive arrangements based on an Executive and a framework of overview and scrutiny committees, together with certain other committees to deal with non executive functions.
- 1.2 Sections 15-17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and Regulation 16 of the Committees and Political Groups Regulations 2000, deal with the political balance of members of the Council on committees, and certain other bodies to which the Council makes appointments.
- 1.3 The Council is required to determine the allocation of seats on the various committees between the different political groups and must meet, so far as is reasonably practicable, the principles of political balance set out below.
- 1.4 The principles of political balance insofar as they affect the City Council, are as follows:-
- (a) that (if there is more than one political group) not all the seats on the relevant committee are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of seats on the relevant committee are allocated to the majority group on the Council;
 - (c) that, subject to (a) and (b), the aggregate total number of seats on the Council's committees are allocated between political groups in proportion to each group's respective representation on the Council;
 - (d) that, subject to (a), (b) and (c), the seats on each individual committee/ sub-committee are allocated between the political groups in proportion to each group's respective membership of the Council, and
 - (e) where councillors are not members of a group, they are to be appointed to any seats which are left unallocated, after giving effect to the political balance principles.

2. **Political Balance**

- 2.1 This report has been prepared on the basis of the following calculation in relation to overall political balance :-

Labour	75
Liberal Democrat	20
Independent	<u>1</u>
	96

- 2.2 The following table provides details of the balanced allocation of seats for each group to committees ranging from memberships of 5 to 25.

Seats	LABOUR 75		LIB DEMOCRAT 20		INDEPENDENT 1	
	Calc	Seats	Calc	Seats	Calc	Seats
5	3.90	4	1.04	1	0.05	0
6	4.68	5	1.25	1	0.06	0
7	5.46	6	1.45	1	0.07	0
8	6.25	6	1.66	2	0.08	0
9	7.03	7	1.87	2	0.09	0
10	7.81	8	2.08	2	0.10	0
11	8.59	9	2.29	2	0.11	0
12	9.37	9	2.50	3	0.12	0
13	10.15	10	2.70	3	0.13	0
14	10.93	11	2.91	3	0.14	0
15	11.71	12	3.12	3	0.15	0
16	12.50	13	3.33	3	0.16	0
17	13.28	13	3.54	4	0.17	0
18	14.06	14	3.75	4	0.18	0
19	14.84	15	3.95	4	0.19	0
20	15.62	16	4.16	4	0.20	0
21	16.40	17	4.37	4	0.21	0
22	17.18	17	4.58	5	0.22	0
23	17.96	18	4.79	5	0.23	0
24	18.75	19	5.00	5	0.25	0
25	19.53	20	5.20	5	0.26	0

2.3 The Committee is requested to make recommendations to the Council regarding the membership of the following Committees

- Art Galleries [14 elected members and 7 co-opted members]
- Audit Committee (8 seats – 6 elected members and 2 independents)
- Children and Young People' Overview & Scrutiny Committee [15 seats, previously 10 Labour, 5 Liberal Democrats]
- Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee [13 seats, previously 9 Labour, 4 Liberal Democrats]
- Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee [17 seats, previously 11 Labour, 6 Liberal Democrats]
- Constitutional and Nomination Committee [13 seats]
- Economy, Employment and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee [12 seats, previously 8 Labour, 4 Liberal Democrats]
- Employee Appeals Committee [formulaic membership]
- Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources (or Assistant Member), Executive Member of the appellant's Employing Department (or Assistant Member) and three other members drawn from the Party nominations.
- For 2010/11 the members were Councillors M. Murphy* H. Fisher** and Ramsbottom** (*Councillors Battle, Barrett, Fender, A. Khan, and Smitheman as substitutes)
- (**Councillors Choudhury and Vacancy (Lib) as substitute)
- Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee [14 seats previously 9 Labour, 4 Liberal Democrats, 1 Independent]
- Licensing and Appeals Committee [maximum 15 seats]
- Licensing Committee [maximum 15 seats]

Licensing Policy Committee (6 seats)

Personnel Committee [formulaic membership]

Membership formula comprises the Leader of the Council (or a Deputy) the 7 Executive Members; the Assistant Executive Member (Finance and Human Resources) and five members of the Opposition Group.

Planning and Highways Committee [15 seats]

Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee [13 seats, previously 8 Labour, 4 Liberal Democrats, 1 Conservative]

Standards Committee [12 seats – 7 elected members, 3 co opted members and 2 parish members]

(The Chair of the Standards Committee must be an independent member and Mr J.A. Snadden was appointed Chair by the Council in May 2008, and there are two further independent members and two Ringway Parish Councillors).

The Constitution provides that there should be at least 7 elected members of the Standards Committee. The rules of political balance do not apply to Standards Committees. The Committee has to establish 3 sub committees to deal with (a) initial assessment (b) reviews of decisions to take no action (c) the hearing itself. Therefore the Council has agreed that the most appropriate representation would be Labour: 4 Liberal Democrat: 3 so that each group could have one member on any sub committee dealing with allegations.

Standing Consultative Panel [15 seats] **(NB the Opposition's allocation of seats in accordance with the Constitution is based on their proportion of 25, ie 5 seats)**

Wythenshawe Area Committee [15 seats] – includes all members representing the 5 Wythenshawe Wards.

2.4 The Independent representative is **entitled** to be a member of one overview and scrutiny committee.

3. **Chairs**

3.1 The Committee is requested to recommend the appointment of the chairs of the following overview and scrutiny committees, and committees discharging non-executive functions.

Art Galleries Committee

Audit Committee

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Communities and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Constitutional and Nomination Committee

Economy, Employment and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Licensing and Appeals Committee

Licensing Committee

Licensing Policy Committee

Planning and Highways Committee

Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4. **Deputy Chairs**

4.1 The Committee is requested to recommend the appointment of the Deputy Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee and the Licensing and Appeals Committee.

5. **Standards Committee: Article 9 Appointment**

The Committee is requested to recommend the appointment of a member for the purpose of answering questions at Council on the work of the Standards Committee, in accordance with Article 9 of the Council Constitution.