

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 14 May 2013

Subject: Membership of Committees 2013/2014 and the Appointment of Chairs of Committees

Report of: The City Solicitor

Purpose of report

This report provides information about the political balance of the Council and presents proposals about the size and balance of membership of Council committees. The Constitutional and Nomination Committee is requested to make recommendations to the Council about the size and composition of the Council's committees and to appoint chairs and deputy chairs of the committees detailed in the report.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to make recommendations to Council about:

1. the size of the Council's committees;
 2. the appointment of members to serve on the various committees listed in sections 3 and 4 of the report in accordance with the principles of political balance where appropriate;
 3. the appointment of members to serve as chairs of scrutiny committees, chairs of non executive committees, and the deputy chairs of the Planning and Highways Committee, and Licensing and Appeals Committee;
 4. 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.
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Contact officers

Donald Connolly
Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit Manager
0161 234 3034
d.connolly@manchester.gov.uk

Carolyn Whewell
Team Leader (Governance)
0161 234 3011
c.whewell@manchester.gov.uk

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.

1. Background

- 1.1 Government regulations require the Council to appoint membership of its committees in accordance with the principles of political balance as far as reasonably practicable. The principles of political balance are summarised below:
- a. If there is more than one political group represented at a council, then seats on any committee cannot be allocated to only one political group;
 - b. that the majority of seats on the relevant committee are allocated to the majority group on the council;
 - c. Subject to (a) and (b), the total number of seats on all of the Council's committees are allocated between political groups in proportion to each group's representation on the Council;
 - d. Subject to (a), (b) and (c), the seats on each individual committee or sub committee are allocated between the political groups in proportion to each group's membership of the Council, and
 - e. where councillors are not members of a group, they are appointed to any seats which are left unallocated.

2. Political Balance

- 2.1 This report has been prepared on the basis of the following calculation of the political balance of the Council's members.

Labour
Liberal Democrat
Independent

- 2.2 The following table provides details of the number of seats that would be allocated to each political group on committees with membership ranging from 3 to 20.

Number of seats allocated	Labour 86 members		Liberal Democrats 9 members		Independent 1 member	
	Calc	Seats	Calc	Seats	Calc	Seats
3	2.7	3	0.3	1	0.0	0
4	3.6	4	0.4	1	0.0	0
5	4.5	4	0.5	1	0.1	0
6	5.4	5	0.6	1	0.1	0
7	6.3	6	0.7	1	0.1	0
8	7.2	7	0.8	1	0.1	0
9	8.1	8	0.8	1	0.1	0
10	9.0	9	0.9	1	0.1	0
11	9.9	10	1.0	1	0.1	0
12	10.8	11	1.1	1	0.1	0

13	11.6	12	1.2	1	0.1	0
14	12.5	13	1.3	1	0.2	0
15	13.4	14	1.4	1	0.2	0
16	14.3	14	1.5	2	0.2	0
17	15.2	15	1.6	2	0.2	0
18	16.1	16	1.7	2	0.2	0
19	17.0	17	1.8	2	0.2	0
20	17.9	18	1.9	2	0.2	0

3. Committee Appointments

3.1 The majority of the council's committees fall under the rules of political balance (the exceptions to this are detailed in section 4 of this report). Of the ordinary committees that come under the rules of political balance, there are 182 places to be allocated. The third principle of political balance (where the total number of committee seats should be allocated in proportion to each political group) would allocate the following seats: 164 Labour, 17 Liberal Democrat, and 1 Independent (on one of the scrutiny committees)

3.2 The Committee is requested to make recommendations to the Council about the membership of the following committees. Detailed below is the total number of seats available for each committee:

- Art Galleries [14 elected members and 7 co-opted members]
- Audit Committee [8 elected members and 2 co-opted members]
- Communities Scrutiny Committee [12 members]
- Constitutional and Nomination Committee [10 members]
- Economy Scrutiny Committee [18 members]
- Finance Scrutiny Committee [12 members]
- Health Scrutiny Committee [16 members]
- Licensing and Appeals Committee [15 members]
- Licensing Committee [15 members]
- Licensing Policy Committee [6 members]
- Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee [16 members]
- Personnel Committee [9 members] - Membership formula comprises the Leader of the Council (or a Deputy) the 6 Executive Members; the Assistant Executive Member (Finance and Human Resources) and 1 member of the Opposition.
- Planning and Highways Committee [15 members]
- Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee [14 members]
- Employee Appeals Committee [3 members] – being the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources (or Assistant Member), Executive Member of the appellant's Employing Department (or Assistant Member) and Councillor De Mauro
- Standing Executive Consultative Panel [15 seats]. The opposition's allocation of seats in accordance with the Constitution is **2 members**.

4. Other Committees

- 4.1 Some of the Council's committees are not subject to the rules of political balance. The Committee is asked to make recommendations to Council about the membership of these committees.

Wythenshawe Area Committee

- 4.2 Wythenshawe Area Committee has 15 members consisting of all members that represent the five Wythenshawe wards so it is not subject to political balance. The Committee is asked to agree the membership of this committee.

Health and Wellbeing Board.

- 4.3 The membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board comprises of councillors as well as NHS and council officers. The Council has appointed the Leader of the Council (chair) and the Executive Member of Adult Services. The membership for 2013/14 was agreed at the meeting of Council on 27 March. The Committee is asked to confirm the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board for 2013/14.

Standards Committee

- 4.4 The Standards Committee consists of six councillors, 2 co-opted members and 1 member from Ringway Parish Council. It was agreed that the requirement for political balanced be waived. The committee is asked to agree membership for 2013/14.

5. Chairs and Deputy Chairs

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

Art Galleries Committee
Audit Committee
Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee
Communities Scrutiny Committee
Constitutional and Nomination Committee
Economy Scrutiny Committee
Finance Scrutiny Committee
Health Scrutiny Committee
Licensing and Appeals Committee
Licensing Committee
Licensing Policy Committee
Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee
Planning and Highways Committee
Standards Committee (this should be an independent member of the committee)

Deputy Chairs

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

6. Standards Committee: Article 9 Appointment

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to recommend the appointment of a member for the purpose of answering questions at Council about the work of the Standards Committee, in accordance with Article 9 of the Council's Constitution.