

Classification	Item No.
Open	

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	21 st May 2025
Title of report:	ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS
Report by:	Leader of the Council
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary:

The report sets out:

- a) The Executive arrangements to be adopted by the Council;
- b) The notification of Political Group Leaders and Deputy Leaders, the allocation of Portfolios to Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members; 2025/2026 Municipal Year; (Appendices A&B)
- c) The appointment of Regulatory Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and other bodies affected by the Political Balance Rules contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year; (Appendix C)
- d) The appointment of bodies not covered or exempted from the Political Balance Rules for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year; (Appendix D)
- e) The appointment of representatives on Joint Authorities/GMCA Bodies;; (Appendix E).
- f) The appointment of other internal bodies not covered by the Political Balance Rules; (Appendix F).
- g) The appointments to outside bodies; (Appendix G).

Recommendation(s)

Recommended option

1. That the Strong Leader arrangements adopted by the Council in 2011/12, be confirmed for 2025/2026.
2. That the appointments of the Political Groups' Leaders and Deputy Leaders as set out in Appendix A to this report be received.
3. That the appointment of the Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix B to this report be noted.
4. That the appointment of the Regulatory Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and other bodies covered by the Political Balance Rules, including

- the appointment of Chairs, where stated, for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix C to this report, be approved.
5. That the appointment of other bodies not covered by or exempted from the Political Balance Rules, including the appointment of Chairs, where stated, for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix D to the report, be approved.
 6. That the appointments to the Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Joint Authorities for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix E to the report, be approved.
 7. That the appointments to the various other internal bodies, including the appointment of Chairs, where stated, for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year, set out in Appendix F to the report, be approved.
 8. That the appointments to outside bodies for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year as set out in Appendix G to the report, be approved.
 9. That the Member Allowance Scheme as agreed in 2022 be noted.
 10. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leaders of the political groups on the Council, be authorised to determine any appointments to bodies which remain to be filled and any changes in appointments or any new appointments to be made during the 2025/2026 Municipal Year and that any such appointments be reported to the Cabinet for information.
 11. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make consequential changes to the Constitution.
 12. Council agrees to the updated Meetings timetable, appendix H.

Key considerations

ISSUES

1 POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS AND DEPUTY LEADERS

The appointment by the Political Groups on the Council of their Leaders and Deputy Leaders has been notified and the details are set out in Appendix A to this report.

1.1 THE LEADER

In accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Council currently operates a Strong Leader with Cabinet form of decision-making.

The Council Constitution made under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and its associated Regulations and directions and adopted by the Council on 24 November 2021, provides for the Council to appoint the Leader.

1.2 REGULATORY COMMITTEES, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES COVERED BY THE POLITICAL BALANCE RULES

The rules and requirements for securing political balance on the Regulatory Committees (and Sub-Committees), Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Advisory Committees and certain other bodies appointed by local authorities as set out in Appendix C of this report, are contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, as amended.

The general effects of the balance rules on this Council are that it is under a duty:-

- (a) to ensure that the membership of those bodies covered by the rules reflects the political composition of the Council as far as practicable;
- (b) to allocate seats on these bodies to the political groups in proportion to their numerical strength on the Council as far as practicable;

- (c) to accept the nominations made by the Groups for the filling of seats allocated to them; and
- (d) to review the allocation of seats to political groups at, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Council Meeting and at certain other specified times

1.3 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ALLOCATION PROCESS

Composition of the Council (51 Seats)

Labour: 32
Conservative: 10
Radcliffe First: 8
Independent: 1

Proportionality principles

Calculation of Political Balance (Proportionality) The Council must allocate seats on Committees and other prescribed bodies to give effect to the political balance rules. The rules for the allocation of seats are set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government Regulations 1990.

Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the principles as follows:

- a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
- b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
- c) 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
- d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

For political balance, a group is required to have at least two members in order to be formally constituted as a political group.

The Council can only depart from these rules by passing a resolution with no member voting against the resolution.

This proportionality report is based on the principles described above. This report is requested to be agreed by Council to ensure the seats are allocated using the appropriate principles as based in law.

The political composition of the Council is as follows:

	Labour	Conservative	Radcliffe First	Others
Members	32	10	8	1
Percentage	62.7%	19.6%	15.6%	1.9%

Achieving Political Balance:

An allocation of seats is set out in the table below.

Committee Size	Labour	Conservative	Radcliffe First	Others
7 Members	4 (4.34)	2 (1.33)	1 (1.05)	0
9 Members	6 (5.58)	2 (1.71)	1 (1.35)	0
10 Members	6 (6.2)	2 (1.9)	2 (1.5)	0
11 Members	7 (6.82)	2 (2.09)	2 (1.65)	0

1.4 OTHER BODIES NOT COVERED BY THE POLITICAL BALANCE RULES

The appointment of certain other bodies are not covered by the Political Balance Rules. The Council is responsible for the Health and Wellbeing Board and, jointly with NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership, the Locality Board. Membership is set out in Appendix D.

1.5 REPRESENTATIVES ON GREATER MANCHESTER JOINT AUTHORITIES

The Council is entitled to appoint representatives to serve on the Greater Manchester Joint Authorities for 2025/26 and to nominate, from amongst the appointed representatives, Spokespersons to answer any questions (duly notified at Council meetings) on the functions of the Joint Authorities on which they serve.

1.6 APPOINTMENTS OF OTHER INTERNAL BODIES NOT GOVERNED BY THE POLITICAL BALANCE RULES 2025/2026

Attached to this report at Appendix F is a schedule giving details of the appointments to other internal bodies not covered by the Political Balance Rules.

1.7 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2025/2026

Attached to this report at Appendix G is a schedule giving details of appointments to be made to outside bodies.

1.8 CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE CHAMPIONS

Each Committee has a nominated Corporate Parenting Champion; they will receive training from Childrens Services and will be responsible for advocating for Corporate Parenting matters in each committee. Champions if appointed to the respective Committees will be re-appointed. Those with vacancies will be appointed at the first meeting.

2.0 CONCLUSION

- Appendix A contains details of appointments of Group Leaders/Deputy Leaders.
- Appendix B contains details of appointments relating to the Cabinet.
- Appendix C contains details of the Regulatory Committees and Sub-Committees/Other Bodies to be appointed in accordance with the Political Balance Rules.
- Appendix D contains details for the appointment of the Audit Committee, Health and Wellbeing Board, Strategic Commissioning Board and other bodies not covered by the Political Balance Rules.
- Appendix E contains details of appointments of representatives on the Greater Manchester Joint Authorities.
- Appendix F contains details of appointments of other internal bodies not covered by the Political Balance Rules.
- Appendix G contains details of appointments to outside bodies.
- Appendix H contains the Terms of Reference for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Northern Care Alliance.

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) *eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) *advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) *foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Consultation:

Group Leaders and Unaligned Members

Legal Implications:

The appointment of the various bodies indicated in the report complies with the provisions of the Council Constitution adopted under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and its related Regulations and directions; and also with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended in respect of the political balance rules.

Financial Implications:

The appointment of the two additional Deputy Cabinet Members will be offset against the appointment of Councillor FitzGerald as deputy Cabinet Member and Chair of Health Scrutiny. The Member Allowance Scheme stipulates in the event that a councillor receives more than one SRA only the highest allowance will be paid. In addition, The SRA for the Deputy Leader is only be payable if the main opposition group holds 20 per cent of seats (11), this threshold has not been reached therefore there will be no SRA payable.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Jacqui Dennis, Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
