

Report title	In Year Appointments for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year	
Referring body	N/A	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Ian Brookfield	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
Accountable director	Tim Johnson, Chief Executive	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
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Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to approve:

1. The appointment of Councillor Milkinder Jaspal to the Audit and Risk Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022.
2. The appointment of co-opted member Tina Richardson, representing Healthwatch Wolverhampton to the Health Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022.
3. The appointment of Councillor Dr Mike Hardacre as a co opted member on the Strategic SEND and Commissioning Partnership Board.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To approve in year appointments for the 2021- 2022 municipal year.

2.0 Background

2.1 The composition of the Audit and Risk Committee and Health Scrutiny Panel was approved at the meeting of Annual Council on 19 May 2021.

2.2 Councillor Harman Banger was removed from the membership of the Audit and Risk Committee in June 2021.

2.3 There is currently one Labour Group vacancy on the Audit and Risk Committee.

2.4 There is currently one co-opted member vacancy on the Health Scrutiny Panel.

2.5 The Council have been approached to appoint the lead member of Education and Skills to the Strategic SEND and Commissioning Partnership Board as a co-opted member to provide political engagement and oversight.

3.0 Evaluation of alternative options

3.1 The alternative option to the proposed recommendations would be to not appoint. This would prevent the Labour Group and Healthwatch Wolverhampton from taking up its allocation of seats on the Audit and Risk Committee and Health Scrutiny Panel.

4.0 Reasons for decisions

4.1 This decision will ensure that the Council's legal duty for committee membership to reflect the political composition of the Council is met.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. [CN/17092021/U].

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to review periodically the political composition of the Authority, and how this is applied to appointments to Council bodies.

6.2 The rules for securing political balance on Committee and Sub-Committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 1 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations, 1990.

6.3 The Council is under a duty to:

- Ensure that the membership of those committees and sub-committees covered by the rules reflect the political composition of the Council, as far as practicable;
- Review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council meeting and at certain other specified times e.g. as a result of changes in political balance or an increase in the number of committees established;
- Allocate seats on the committees to the political groups in proportion to their numerical strength on the Council, as far as practicable;
- Accept nominations made by the groups for the fillings of seats allocated to them.

6.4 In determining the allocation of seats, the Council must also apply the following four principles, as far as reasonably practicable; A. Not all seats to be allocated to the same political group; B. If a political group has a majority on the Council, it must have a majority of seats on committees; C. Subject to (a) – (b) above, the total of all seats on ordinary committees should be allocated to the groups in proportion to their respective strength on the Council; and D. Subject to (a) – (c) the number of seats on ordinary committees or sub-committees to be allocated to each political group in proportion to the number of all the seats on the committee or sub-committee in proportion to their respective strength on the Council.

6.5 In accordance with the Constitution, Individual Cabinet Members are empowered to make Individual Executive Decisions in respect of their area of responsibility, subject to the decision not falling within one of the exceptions listed in the Constitution. The Leader of the Council has lead responsibility to agree permanent membership changes to Cabinet Panels, Regulatory or other committees and Forums and the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels, in between annual meetings of the Council. The recommendations proposed in this report do not fall within the list of exemptions that would require that the matter be considered collectively by Cabinet.

[SZ/16102021/P]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8.0 All other Implications

8.1 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

9.0 Schedule of background papers

9.1 Council – 19 May 2021, Political balance, appointment of the Cabinet, appointments to Scrutiny and Regulatory and other Committees, and appointments to outside bodies for 2021-2022

9.2 Council – 9 July 2021, Decision Made Under Urgent Action Powers

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