

Meeting of the City Council

1 December 2021

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	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
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 removal of Councillor Wendy Dalton from the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022.
2. The appointment of Councillor Mak Singh to the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022.
3. The removal of Councillor Tersaim Singh from the membership and Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022.
4. The appointment of Councillor John Reynolds as Chair to the Governance and Ethics Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022.
5. The appointment of Councillor Milkinder Jaspal to the Governance and Ethics Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022.
6. The appointment of Councillor Tersaim Singh to the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022.
7. The appointment of Councillor Lynn Moran on the Interpersonal Violence Board for the remainder of the Municipal year 2021/2022.

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 Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel, Governance and Ethics Committee and Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel was approved at the meeting of Annual Council on 19 May 2021.
- 2.2 There is currently; one Conservative Group vacancy on Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel, one Labour Group vacancy on Governance and Ethics Committee and two Labour Group vacancies on Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel.
- 2.3 The Council have been approached to appoint a Councillor to the Interpersonal Violence Board as an observer.

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 Conservative Group from taking up its allocation of seats on the Children, Young People Scrutiny and Families Panel, Governance and Ethics Committee and Vibrant and Sustainable City 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.
[GE/22112021/A]

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 Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 requires Local Authorities to appoint an Overview and Scrutiny Committee with relevant powers of review and scrutiny and section 9FA provides the authority to appoint sub-committees. Section 2FA(3) of the same act further specifies that members of the executive cannot sit on the Scrutiny Panel.

6.6 The latest Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in May 2019. Chapter 4 is dedicated to the selection of Committee Members and reiterates the proportionality requirements as well as the expertise, commitment and ability to act impartially of the whole group. [TC/23112021/A]

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

9.3 Council – 3 November 2021, In Year Appointments for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year
2021-2022