



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

5 October 2020

Report Title:	Allocation of Seats on Scrutiny Committees 2020-21
Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member Finance and Governance
Cabinet Member	Councillor Martin Bond
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
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Borough priorities Please mark X for any priority supported by this report NB Use Section 4 - Background Information to explain how each selected priority is supported	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	
	Promote good health, independence and care across our communities	
	Create safe and strong communities for our residents	
	Support a strong, diverse and well-connected local economy	
	Create a green, thriving and vibrant place to be proud of	
	Be a modern, efficient and effective Council	X

1. Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is the duty of the Council, at its annual meeting, where it is divided into different political groups, to allocate seats on the various Committees of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.
- 1.2 The report provides the Council with nominations to seats on the three Scrutiny Committees; Adult Social Care and Health, Children and Young People Services and Places Service, in line with group wishes and requests that appointments to those seats is made in accordance with Section 16, together with the nominations for appointment of Chairmen.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Council is recommended to:

- i) **in order to comply with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, agree the allocation of seats on Committees as detailed in 4.3 of the report;**
- ii) **in order to comply with Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, agree the appointments to the seats on Committee in line with the wishes of the groups as detailed in 4.5 of the report; and**
- iii) **agree the appointments of Chairmen be as detailed in 4.6 of the report.**

3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to allocate seats on the various Committees of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission in order to comply with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to make appointments to those seats in accordance with Section 16.

4. Background /Reasons for the recommendations

- 4.1 Under the terms of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 where a Council is divided into different Political Groups in accordance with the Local Government

(Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, as this one is, seats on all Committees have to be allocated to give effect to the following principles:

- (a) all the seats on Committee are not to be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) the majority of seats on a Committee should be allocated to the group which has the majority of the Authority's membership;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the total number of seats on Committees must be allocated in proportion to the political strength on the Council; and
- (d) subject to (a), (b) and (c) above the number of seats on each Committee must be allocated in proportion to the political strength on the Council

4.2 The political make-up of the Council is set out below:

The Political make of the Council is as follows:

Labour	35
Liberal Democrats	4
The Independents	3
Conservative	3
Green Party	2
Vacancy	1

	48

4.3 That in order to comply with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the seats on the following Committees be allocated as detailed below:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Lab</u>	<u>Lib Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Con</u>	<u>Grn</u>
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	10	7	1	1	1	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	10	7	1	1	0	1
Place Scrutiny Committee	10	7	1	0	1	1
	30	21	3	2	2	2

4.4 Section 16 of the above Act provides that after the allocation of seats has been determined, that the seats be allocated to Political Groups. The seats are the property of the various Political Groups for appointment.

4.5 Appointment of Members to Scrutiny Committees

In order to comply with Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the

appointments to those seats allocated in accordance with Section 15 and the appointment of Members in line with the wishes of the groups is shown below:

1. Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee

Lab	7	Councillors	Gill, Lynch, Maloney, McDonnell, Pearson, L Preston and Uddin
LD	1	Councillor	Pearl
Ind	1	Councillor	Greaves
Con	1	Councillor	Mussell

Co-opted (Non-Voting) Mrs B Smith, Representative from Health Watch

2. Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee

Lab	7	Councillors	Cunliffe, T Long, McDonnell, Osundeko, C Preston, Sweeney and Wiseman
LD	1	Councillor	Sims
Ind	1	Councillor	Greaves
Grn	1	Councillor	O'Keefe

Co-opted (voting) Mr D Thorpe (Church of England)
Mr C Williams (Roman Catholic Church)
Vacancy (Primary)
Ms P Lawson, Parent Governor (Secondary)
Ms J Leybourne, Parent Governor (Special)

3. Place Services Scrutiny Committee

Lab	7	Councillors	Gill, Hattersley, J Jackson, P Jackson, McQuade, L Preston and Uddin
LD	1	Councillor	Smith
Con	1	Councillor	Mussell
Grn	1	Councillor	Van der Burg

Co-opted (Non-voting) Superintendent S Brizell, Merseyside Police
Mr I Mullen, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

4.6 Appointment of Chairman

The Council is requested to consider the appointments of Chairmen to Committees nominations as follows:

(1) Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee

Chairman:

Councillor McDonnell has been nominated by the Labour Group for the position of Chairman.

(2) Children and Young People Services Scrutiny Committee

Chairman:

Councillor T Long has been nominated by the Labour Group for the position of Chairman.

(3) Place Services Scrutiny Committee

Chairman:

Councillor Hattersley has been nominated by the Labour Group for the position of Chairman.

5. Community Impact Assessment

5.1 N/A

6 Consideration of Alternatives

6.1 None

7 Conclusions

7.1 The Council be recommended to review the representation of different political groups on the Scrutiny Committees in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and allocate the seats in line with group wishes and requests that appointments to those seats is made in accordance with Section 16, together with the appointment of Chairmen to said Committees.

8. Implications

8.1 Legal Implications

8.1.1 The recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution

8.2 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications

N/A

8.2.1 Social Value

8.2.1.1 N/A

8.2.2 Sustainability and Environment

8.2.2.1 N/A

8.2.3 Health and Wellbeing

8.2.3.1 N/A

8.2.4 Equality and Human Rights

8.2.4.1 N/A

8.3 Customers and Resident

8.3.1 N/A

8.4 Asset and Property

8.4.1 N/A

8.5 Staffing and Human Resource

8.5.1 N/A

8.6 Risks

8.6.1 N/A

8.7 Finance

8.7.1 N/A

8.8 Policy Framework Implications

8.8.1 N/A

9. Background papers

None

10. Appendices

None