

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 14 July 2008

Subject: Select Committee Memberships and political balance rules.

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Contact officer: Sue Johnson 01942 827148

Purpose / summary: To clarify Select Committee memberships and the application of political balance rules.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: Not to agree the memberships or to apply political balance rules strictly. The recommended option enables the work of the Committee to progress smoothly through the year.

Recommendation / decision: The Committee is asked to agree:

- review the application of the political balance rules in relation to the Health Select Committee; and
- to the Select Committee memberships for the next round of reviews.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours**.

Risks / Implications:

Financial: There are none. Any recommendations that emerge will be subject to separate agreement and approval

Staffing: Covered in existing budgets

Policy: None at this stage

Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment The contents of this report do not have any DIA implications. In holding its meetings,

been conducted?

taking evidence and producing their reports each Select Committee will take DIA considerations into account

Wards affected:

All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

Any reviews selected will be considered for impact as recommendations are made

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

This will be considered once recommendations are made

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **No**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	x
Discussion leading to a decision	x
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	x
Discussion	
Decision	
Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
	14 July 2008		

List of Background Papers in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972: None

Proper Officer Mrs Sue Johnson

Date 4 July 2008

Background:

1. At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 June 2008 (minute 29), it was resolved that all Select Committees would operate without political balance rules being applied. Agendas and minutes would still be required for all meetings.

Since the meeting:

- Members have been asked to identify which Select Committee they wished to support in the next round of reviews; and
- A suggestion has been received that the Health Select Committee should continue to apply the political balance rules.

Proposals

2. Following receipt of choices from Members, the following information has been compiled:

	Select Committee 1 PACT	Select Committee 2 Recycling	Select Committee 3 Tendering	Health Scrutiny
Lab	Cllr J S Birch (Chair) Cllr M Klieve Cllr P L Holland Cllr J Moodie	Cllr F B Walker (Chair) Cllr M Aldred Cllr J Moodie	Cllr Mrs M J Whiteside (Chair) Cllr J S Birch Cllr Mrs B Bourne Cllr G M Bretherton Cllr M Klieve Cllr C Rigby	Cllr G M Bretherton (Chair) Cllr M A Dewhurst Cllr P L Holland Cllr Mrs J Hurst
Dem /All	Cllr P A Tushingham Cllr B J Fagan	Cllr R J Derricutt Cllr J Ellis Cllr J Miller	Cllr B J Fagan	Cllr B J Fagan
Cons	-	Cllr N R Whittingham	Cllr H L Cadman Cllr P Thompson	-
Ind Cllr Grp	Cllr R T Splaine	Cllr G Wilkes (first choice)	Cllr G Wilkes (second choice)	-
Ind Con Grp	-	-	Cllr G A Fairhurst	-
Co- opted Memb er	-	Mr B Turrell	Rev Deacon R Moore	Councillor M W Winstanley

Some Members have indicated their support for more than one Select Committee and further places may be filled at the meeting.

Cross-party membership of the Select Committees would ensure that all aspects of the topics are considered.

Health Select Committee

3. While the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about not applying political balance rules to the membership of Select Committees covers all the Select Committees, it has been suggested that this may not be appropriate for the Health Select Committee because of its wider role and its links with regional scrutiny. Article 6.05 of the Council's Constitution relating to arrangements with Greater Manchester, the Council authorises the Greater Manchester Health Joint Scrutiny Panel to undertake the scrutiny of strategic, conurbation wide and cross boundary health services. As political balance applies to that body and other authorities' health select committees, Members may wish to review the decision as to the application of the political balance rules as follows:-

	Health Scrutiny
Labour	5 Cllr G M Bretherton (Chair) Cllr P L Holland Cllr Mrs J Hurst 2 vacancies
Democratic Alliance	1 vacancy
Conservative	1 vacancy
Independent Councillor Group	1 vacancy
Ind Conservative Group	1 vacancy
Total	9

Conclusions:

The Committee is asked to agree:

- review the application of the political balance rules to the Health Select Committee; and
- to the Select Committee memberships for the next round of reviews as set out above.