

Appointment of new Board members and Associate Board members, June 2026

Background

Under the MDC Constitution, the Board must include the Leaders of each of the three largest political groups in the Council, with all other Group Leaders attending meetings as Associate Board members. The Constitution, in keeping with the enabling legislation, requires all appointments to the Board to be made by the Greater Manchester Mayor, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Following the local elections in May 2026, there have been changes to the political balance of the Council which is now as follows:

- Liberal Democrats (34)
- Labour Party, including Labour and Cooperative (14)
- Green Party (4)
- Stockport Community Association (4)
- Independent Rate Payers (3)
- Reform (2)
- Conservative (1)
- Independents (1)

Additionally, there have been changes to the leadership of some political Groups:

- Cllr Christine Carrigan is no longer Leader of the Labour Group and has been replaced in that role by Cllr Rachel Wise.
- Cllr Gary Lawson did not stand for election. The Leader of the Green Party is now Cllr Liz Crix.
- Cllr Matt Wynne is no longer Leader of Stockport Community Association and has been replaced by Cllr Asa Caton.
- Cllr Mark Roberts remains Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

In line with the Constitution and following consultation with the Leader of the Council, Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, has exercised his statutory powers to:

- Terminate Cllr Christine Carrigan's appointment as a member of the Stockport Town Centre MDC Board
- Terminate Cllr Matt Wynne's appointment as a member of the Stockport Town Centre MDC Board

- Appoint Cllr Rachel Wise as a member of the Stockport Town Centre Board in her capacity as Leader of the Labour Group

In relation to the third seat on the Board, the Stockport Community Association and the Green Party are tied as the third largest group with four seats each. The current MDC Constitution has no provision for resolving a tie between parties, however when a similar situation arose in 2023 (when three parties were tied as the third largest group) we resolved that the position would be filled on a rolling basis with rotation every year based on the length of time each group has been in existence in the Council. In line with this approach and in consultation with Group Leaders, the Mayor has now exercised his statutory powers to:

- Appoint Cllr Liz Crix as the third Board member of the Stockport Town Centre MDC Board to May 2027.

Following these appointments to the Board, the Constitution stipulates that all other Group Leaders (of the Independent Rate Payers, Reform and Stockport Community Association groups) are appointed as Associate Board members. The Leader of the Independent Rate Payers (Cllr Anna Charles-Jones) is already an Associate Board member.

Recommendation to the Board

In line with the Constitution, the MDC Board is recommended to:

1. Note the appointment of Cllr Wise and Cllr Crix as Board members by the Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham
2. Appoint the following Group Leaders as new Associate Board members:
 - a. Cllr Asa Caton, Stockport Community Association
 - b. Cllr Brian Battle, Reform Party