

MEETING	FULL COUNCIL
DATE	3 May 2018
TITLE OF THE REPORT	The Council's Political Balance
PURPOSE	Annual Review of the Council's Political Balance
RECOMMENDATION	Allocation of seats on the Council's Committees
AUTHOR	Geraint Owen, Head of Democratic Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A report to the Full Council on 5th October 2017 noted that the Council's political balance is as follows:

Plaid Cymru	41
Independent	23
Llais Gwynedd	6
Liberal/Labour	2
Gwynedd United Independents	3

TOTAL	75
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- 1.2 Since then, Councillor Nigel Pickavance has left the Independent Group and become an individual member.
- 1.3 To summarise, following the changes noted, the political constitution of the Council is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	41
Annibynnol	22
Llais Gwynedd	6
Liberal/Labour	2
Gwynedd United Independents	3
Individual Member	1

Cyfanswm	75
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2. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

- 2.1 To remind members, the four main rules included in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in relation to the allocation of seats are noted here:-
- 2.2 (a) Every seat on a committee cannot be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) The majority of seats on a committee must be allocated to a political group if the

number of persons who are members of that group constitute a majority of the Council's members;

(c) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on ordinary committees allocated to each political group will be the same as the number of total seats the members of that group have on the Council;

(ch) Subject to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above, the number of seats on a committee allocated to each political group will be the same proportion of seats on the committee as the number of seats the members of that group have on the Council.

- 2.3 In order to ensure that these rules are adhered to, the Council has been dealing with committees in different blocks in the past. Also, this makes it easier to ensure that rule (c) in paragraph 2.2 above is adhered to.

3. CHANGES TO SEATS ALLOCATED ON COMMITTEES

- 3.1 The changes mean that the Individual member gains a seat on the Care Scrutiny Committee and the Licensing Committee at the expense of the Independent Group. (see Appendix A).
- 3.2 The Council is asked to adopt the allocation of seats based on the political balance as noted in Appendix A.

4. CHAIRPERSONSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONSHIPS

- 4.1 In order to respond to the requirements of the Local Government Measure (2011) in terms of allocation of chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships the committees are divided into separate blocks.
- 4.2 In accordance with the requirements of sections 66-75 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 it was a requirement to allocate the chairpersonships of scrutiny committees in order to ensure, as far as possible, that political balance was reflected in those chairpersonships and that the groups that were not represented on the executive were given a fair proportion of the chairpersonships.
- 4.3 The only committees in which the chairs are to be allocated on the basis of political balance are the following Scrutiny Committees. The Chairs were allocated as follows in 2017/18.
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|-----------------------|-------------|
| Education and Economy | Independent |
| Communities | Plaid Cymru |
| Care | Independent |
- 4.4 In accordance with section 83 of the Measure, the chairperson of the Audit Committee cannot be a member of a political group which is represented on the executive.
- 4.5 It is recommended that the allocation to the chairpersonships remains consistent with the allocation in 2017/18, in line with the statutory rules.
- 4.6 There are no statutory or constitutional provisions to control the appointments to the vice-chairpersonships or to the chairpersonships of the remaining committees (other than a member of the executive cannot chair the Licensing Committee).

- 4.7 The committees themselves will elect their chairpersons in these cases subject to the procedural rules which limit the term of a Chairperson to two years.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Council is asked to:

- adopt the allocation in Appendix A, which reflects the current political balance of the Council.
- delegate the power to the Head of Democratic Services to make appointments to the committees on the basis of political balance and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.
- allocate the chairpersonships of scrutiny committees on the basis of political balance as follows:

Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Independent
Communities Scrutiny Committee	Plaid Cymru
Care Scrutiny Committee	Independent

APPENDIX A - ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

A	Plaid Cymru	Independent Group	Llais Gwynedd	Lib/Lab	Gwynedd United Independents	Individual member	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	10	5	2	0	1		18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	10	5	2	1	0		18
Care Scrutiny Committee	10	6 5	1	0	1	1	18
Audit and Governance	10	5	1	1	1		18

B	Plaid Cymru	Independent Group	Llais Gwynedd	Lib/Lab	Gwynedd United Independents	Individual member	Total
Democratic Services	8	5	1	0	1		15
Planning	8	4	1	1	1		15
Central Licensing	8	5 4	1	1	0	1	15
Language	8	5	1	0	1		15
Chief Officers Appointment	8	5	2	0	0		15
Employment Appeals	4	2	1	0	0		7

Number of seats	84	45	13	4	6	2	154
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C	Plaid Cymru	Independent Group	Llais Gwynedd	Lib/Lab	Gwynedd United Independents	Individual member	Total
Pensions	4	2	0	1	0		7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	6	3	1	0	1		11
SACRE	4	3	0	0	0		7
Joint Planning Policy Committee	5	2	1	0	0		8

Total seats	103	55	15	5	7	2	187
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