

MEETING	COUNCIL
DATE	13 MAY 2010
TITLE OF THE REPORT	POLITICAL BALANCE
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To Review the Political Balance of the Council.
REPORT BY	Head of Democracy and Legal
ACTION	To Apportion Seats on the Council's Committees.

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council has to ensure that the constitution of its committees and sub-committees reflect the strength of the various political groups represented on the Council.
- 1.2 The political balance of the Council at present is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	35
Independent	18
Llais Gwynedd	12
Liberal Democrats	5
Labour	4
Individual Member	1

2. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

- 2.1 To remind members, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out four main rules on the allocation of seats:-
- 2.2 (a) Not all the seats on a committee may be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) The majority of seats on the committee must be allocated to the political group where the number of persons within the group forms a majority of Council members;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the total number of seats on the ordinary committees allocated to each political group will equal that group's total number of seats on the Council;
- (ch) subject to (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 that members of that group hold on the Council.

- 2.3 In order to ensure that these rules are adhered to, the Council, in the past has dealt with committees in different blocks. This makes it easier to ensure that rule (c) in paragraph 2.2 above is adhered to.
- 2.4 With four committees, namely Complaints Committee, Charities Sub-committee and both Bangor and Caernarfon Housing Allocation Sub-committees coming to an end there is a decrease in the number of seats on the Council committees.
- 2.5 In addition, there number of members in the Llais Gwynedd Group has decreased which means that the allocation of seats on the committees for the group is less.
- 2.6 If it is agreed to change the allocation of seats, the Liberal Democrats Group will lose a seat to the Plaid Cymru Group on the Local Joint Consultative Committee; the Labour Group will lose a seat to the Plaid Cymru Group on the Audit Committee and the Llais Gwynedd Group will lose a seat to the Independent Group on the Principal Scrutiny Committee. (see **Appendix A**)
- 2.7 The Council Business Group met on 30 March and 26 April, 2010 and agreed to recommend the changes to the committees as noted in 2.4 - 2.6 above.

3. CHAIRPERSONSHIPS AND VICE CHAIRPERSONSHIPS

- 3.1 In accordance with rule 6.2 of the Local Authorities (Alternative Arrangements)(Wales) Regulations 2007 a member of the same political group as the chairperson of the Board may not be chairperson or vice chairperson of the Principal Scrutiny Committee nor chairperson of the Audit Committee.
- 3.2 Following the deletion of the Complaints Committee the allocation of chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships on the Council's main committees is less.
- 3.3 The Council Business Group met on 30 March and 26 April, 2010 and agreed to recommend the allocation of the chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships as outlined in **Appendix B**

4. ACTION

- 4.1 The Council is requested to
- i. adopt the allocation outlined in Appendix A;
 - ii. adopt the allocation of chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships as outlined in Appendix B

APPENDIX A

COUNCIL BOARD AND PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Council Board	7	4	2	1	1
Principal Scrutiny Committee	7	4	2	1	1

OTHER SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Development	7	4	3	1	
Environment	7	3	3	1	1
Children and Young People	7	3	3	1	1
Care	7	4	2	1	1

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Audit	8	4	3		
Pensions	2	2	Vacant seat	1	1
Central Planning	5	3	1	1	1
Central Licensing	5	3	2	1	
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1	1
Human Resources	6	2	2	1	
SACRE	3	2	1	1	
Local Joint Committee	6	2	2		1
Special Education Joint Committee	3	2	1		1
Language	3	2	2		

APPENDIX B**APPORTIONMENT OF CHAIRPERSONSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONSHIPS 2010 - 2011****Chairperson of the Council:****Vice-chairperson of the Council:**

	COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	VICE-CHAIRPERSON
1	Council Board	Plaid Cymru	Plaid Cymru
2	Principal Scrutiny Committee	Liberal Democrats	Independent
3	Children and Young People	Independent	Labour
4	Environment	Liberal Democrats	Plaid Cymru
5	Care	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
6	Development	Plaid Cymru	Plaid Cymru
7	Audit	Independent	Llais Gwynedd
8	Central Planning	Plaid Cymru	Llais Gwynedd
9	Central Licensing	Independent	Plaid Cymru
10	Pensions	Labour	Plaid Cymru
11	Human Resources	Independent	Plaid Cymru
12	Employment Appeals	Plaid Cymru	Independent
13	Arfon Area	Plaid Cymru	Independent
14	Dwyfor Area	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
15	Meirionnydd Area	Plaid Cymru	Llais Gwynedd