

MEETING	THE FULL COUNCIL
DATE	21 JUNE 2012
TITLE OF THE REPORT	THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE
PURPOSE	To review the Council's Political Balance
RECOMMENDATION	To allocate seats on the Council's Committees
AUTHOR	Head of Democracy and Legal Department

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A by-election was held in the Bryncreg / Llanfihangel Ward on 14 June when Councillor Beth Lawton was elected as a member of the Independent Group on the Council.

1.2 As a consequence the Council's political constitution is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	37
Independent	18
Llais Gwynedd	14
Labour	4
Liberal Democrats	2
Total	75

2. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

2.1 To remind members, noted here are the four main rules included in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 regarding the allocation of seats:-

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 all seats that members of that group has 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 that members of that group has 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.

2.4 The Council Business Group was asked to meet to discuss the matter in order to present a recommendation to the Full Council and met on 19 June, 2012.

- 2.5 The change in the political balance means that the Independent Group gains two seats one on the Services Scrutiny Committee and the other on the Democracy Services Committee while the Liberal Democrats Group lose a seat on the Democracy Services Committee.
- 2.6 That the Llais Gwynedd Group gains a seat on the Licensing Committee.
- 2.7 And that the Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Special Educational Needs Joint Committee.
- 2.8 Also the Plaid Cymru Group loses a seat on the Planning Committee and gains a seat on the Employment Appeals Committee while the Liberal Democrats Group gains a seat on the Planning Committee and loses a seat on the Employment Appeals Committee. (see **Appendix A**)

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council is asked to change the allocation of seats on the committees as noted in points 2.5 to 2.8 above, namely that the Independent Group gains two seats, one on the Services Scrutiny Committee and the other on the Democracy Services Committee, while the Liberal Democrats Group lose a seat on the Democracy Services Committee, and that Llais Gwynedd gains a seat on the Licensing Committee and Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Special Educational Needs Joint Committee and Employment Appeals Committee and loses a seat on the Planning Committee while the Liberal Democrats Group gains a seat on the Planning Committee and loses a seat on the Employment Appeals Committee.

APPENDIX A

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Corporate	9	4	3	1	1
Communities	9	4	3	1	1
Services	9	5	3	1	
Audit	9	4	4	1	

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Democracy Services	7	4	3	1	
Planning	7	3	3	1	1
Central Licensing	7	4	4		
Language	8	4	3		
Appointment of Principal Officers	7	4	2	1	1
Employment Appeals	4	1	1	1	

Number of seats	76	37	29	8	4	154
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Pensions	3	2	1		1
SACRE	3	2	2		
Local Consultative Joint-committee	6	2	2		
Special Educational Needs Joint-committee	4	2	1		
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one seconder)	2	1	1	

Total seats	96	47	36	10	5	194
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