
THE COUNCIL 02/05/13

Present: Councillor Huw Edwards (Chairman)
Councillor Dewi Owen (Vice-chairman)

Councillors: Craig ab Iago, Anwen Davies, Lesley Day, Eddie Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Elwyn Edwards, Trevor Edwards, T.G. Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Ll. Evans, Jean Forsyth, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Gwen Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Sian Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, Chris Hughes, John B. Hughes, Louise Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron Jones, Anne Ll. Jones, Brian Jones, Charles W. Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric M. Jones, John W. Jones, Linda W. Jones, Sion W. Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, June Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Michael Sol Owen, W. Roy Owen, W. Tudor Owen, Peter Read, Caerwyn Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Ioan Thomas, Paul Thomas, Ann Williams, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed W. Williams, Gethin G. Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Hefin Williams, John W. Williams, Owain Williams, R.H. Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies, Robert J. Wright, Eurig Wyn

Also present: Harry Thomas (Chief Executive), Dilwyn O Williams, Dafydd Lewis and Iwan Trefor Jones (Corporate Directors), Dilys Phillips (Monitoring Officer/Head of Democracy and Legal Department), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Geraint George (Head of Strategic and Improvement Department), Arwel Ellis Jones (Senior Manager – Corporate Commissioning Service), Iwan Evans (Legal Services Manager), Vera Jones (Democratic Services Manager), Darren Griffiths (Strategic Planning Manager), Huw Ynyr (Senior Manager – Information Technology and Business Transformation) and Gwyn Parry Williams (Members Support and Scrutiny Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Stephen Churchman, David Gwynfor Edwards, Llywarch Bowen Jones, Nigel Pickavance, Gareth Thomas

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Councillor Tom Ellis.

The prayer was followed with an address from Councillor Selwyn Griffiths, Chair for 2012/13.

1. CHAIRMAN

Councillor Huw Edwards was elected Chair for 2013/14.

Councillor Huw Edwards signed the declaration accepting the post of the Chairman of Gwynedd Council for 2013/14.

2. VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Dewi Owen was elected Vice-chairman for 2013/14.

Councillor Dewi Owen signed a declaration accepting the post of the Vice-chairman of Gwynedd Council for 2013/14.

3. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 February 2013 as a true record.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

- (i) A briefing note had been sent by the Monitoring Officer to the members regarding the item "Members' Salaries".

It was explained that, under the Code of Conduct, every member had a potential personal interest in this item, but it was not a prejudicial interest. The interest should be declared by signing the appropriate form; however, members would be entitled to participate in the discussion and vote.

- ii) All members present declared a personal interest in the item "Members' Salaries" because, as members of the Council, they received a salary.

The members were of the opinion that it was not a prejudicial interest and they participated fully in the discussion on the item.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i) Condolences were expressed to the following -

Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones on the death of her uncle recently.

The family of former Councillor Leslie Edwards, Barmouth – the last Chair of the Gwynedd County Council, who had died recently.

The family of former Councillor Ifor Lewis, Morfa Bychan, who had died recently.

Some Council staff who had lost loved ones recently.

The Council members stood as a mark of respect.

- ii) Best wishes to -

The County's youth who would be competing in the Urdd National Eisteddfod, Pembrokeshire at the end of the month.

Councillor W. Roy Owen on his term as Mayor of Caernarfon.

- iii) A copy of the Gwynedd Council Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy and Guidelines had been sent to all members with the Council agenda and the Chairman drew attention to their importance, the responsibility on

each member to ensure that they took safeguarding seriously and the need for them all to attend training on the topic.

6. THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2013 -2017

- (a) The Chief Executive set out the background and context of the report.

He noted that the plan not only reflected local priorities but also reflected the fact that the Welsh Government, responsible for 80% of the funding, also had priorities and aspirations and that they should be intertwined with the local aspirations and ambition. He drew attention to examples in the document e.g. standards of education where there was a local aspiration to improve standards but, also, that the Minister for Education had set a challenge for every Council in Wales to improve their standards by 5% a year for the subsequent three years. He referred to the new Bill in relation to Social Services.

He was grateful for the input of members and the public on the plan.

He referred to the fact that it was impossible to have one document which reflected everyone's priorities due to differences of opinion. He also referred to the financial climate and the main challenge over the coming years to maintain services, and the Gwynedd Way Strategy, adopted by the Council on 28 February 2013, had been incorporated into the plan for the next four years. He noted that it was a live document and that it could be adapted but that it set out the Council's general priorities and that the Council would be responsible for the detail of the plans.

The Council Leader noted that, in adopting the Strategic Plan for 2012/13, it was agreed that the Council would adopt a Strategic Plan for the remaining Council term, from 2013 to 2017. Each Council had been required to prepare an annual Improvement Plan outlining its "improvement objectives" for the year and the Strategic Plan did that and, in addition to noting the longer term results the Council was seeking to deliver, the plan, therefore, noted specifically what the Council planned to deliver in 2013/14. The annual review of the plan would seek to ensure this in the context of those longer term results the Council was working towards in each thematic area.

One clear emphasis in its development was that we had to be alive to new opportunities and risks that could arise and also verify whether what we had committed to was making the difference that had been intended. If that was not happening, we had to be ready to stop an activity in order to redirect work and resources. Specifically, we would be looking for early opportunities to be clearer about some of the proposals that were developmental at the moment. The aim here was to be clearer as soon as possible as to what we wanted to realise in the different fields and to move on to deliver clear and appropriate results for residents.

He noted that a clear consideration in adopting such a plan was the resources linked to its implementation. He referred to the Financial

Strategy for the period of the plan which noted that provision had been made in the strategy to meet the resource requirements of the plan. The Corporate Management Team had considered the resource implications that were linked to the commitments in the plan and could offer the assurance that there was sufficient provision in the strategy. Subject to the Council's approval of the plan, over the next few weeks, there would be rigorous challenging to verify the sums requested for individual schemes before realising money for their implementation but this would not be an obstacle to the realisation of the commitments that had been made in the plan.

In preparing the plan, considerable engagement and consultation work had taken place and the initial engagement with residents about what should be addressed in the plan had been quite a success. However, the consultation on the proposals had been disappointing in terms of the number who had taken part and there were lessons here that the Council needed to consider as it developed its priority of improving the Council's engagement arrangements. Early in the development of the priorities, consideration had been given to equality and sustainability issues and this work would be completed to be able to assure the full Council on any matters it should be aware of in considering the adoption of the plan.

The Cabinet had considered the draft plan on 30 April 2013 when it was resolved to recommend that the Council adopted it.

- (b) Members were invited to make observations.
 - i) In relation to a Profile of Gwynedd and the Council, a member was of the opinion that further details needed to be included in the profile e.g. include an outline of the various services the Council was responsible for delivering, the structure of the Council and reference to the Council's website.
 - ii) A member proposed an amendment regarding the field of Children and Young People namely "Considering the guidelines for local authorities on assessing and ensuring adequate play opportunities for children in their areas and the fact that there are statutory requirements on the Council to adopt these policies, completing an assessment of the statutory guidelines noted that the assessment of adequacy of play opportunities should be part of the local needs assessment for ensuring adequate play opportunities within the process of planning, implementing and reviewing the single integrated plan on all stages of the planning cycle."

In response, the Cabinet Member for Healthy Gwynedd confirmed that an assessment had already taken place of play adequacy and it had been sent to the Welsh Government and various needs had been identified.

The Chief Executive noted that the Welsh Government guidelines referred to another scheme, namely a single integrated plan with partnerships. He referred to a presentation made by officers to the Cabinet on the

assessment and that it would be possible to transfer the information to the member in order to show the action plan and assessment carried out.

Another member referred to the fact that he had been given to understand that an assessment had been carried out at a cost of £20,000. He was of the opinion that now was the time to integrate these matters to the strategic plan.

The Council Leader noted that there was no disagreement regarding this matter but asked whether it needed to be included in the strategic plan. He referred to the fact that the Cabinet's response to the play adequacy assessment had been sent to the Welsh Government and therefore the matter had been addressed.

A vote was taken on the amendment.

The Chairman reported that the amendment had fallen.

- iii) A member welcomed the strategic plan but expressed concern regarding the consultation on the plan and noted that it was important to engage with the third sector.
- iv) A member was of the opinion that failing to establish a prison in Gwynedd would be a tragedy as it would be a way of creating more jobs. He noted that 14% of the young people of Gwynedd left the county to look for work.

In response, the Council Leader noted that, unfortunately, the opportunity to establish a prison on the former Ferodo site in Caernarfon had been missed but, by now, the Ministry of Justice had set out its criteria regarding establishing new prisons and that the Ferodo site did not meet those criteria. He noted that, if any member had information about other suitable sites within Gwynedd, he would like to receive that information.

RESOLVED to adopt the Council's Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2017.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- a) The Council Leader set out the background and context of the report.

He noted that work had been in hand under the auspices of the association which represented Monitoring Officers in Wales, with the support of the Welsh Local Government Association and the Welsh Government, to draw up a standard constitution for the unitary councils in Wales. The motivation for this was the fact that all councils in Wales now operated executive arrangements (Leader and Cabinet) and substantial differences were appearing between the legal requirements on Welsh councils compared to those in England as a result of legislation by the Welsh Government.

He noted that the standard constitution was expected to be completed during the next few months. It would continue to allow local differences

from council to council, but it was hoped that there would be more consistency in interpretations of the Constitution across Wales and that the constitutional document would be easier to understand. The new standard constitution would be presented to the Council for adoption in due course. In the meantime a few amendments were needed to the existing Constitution as noted below -

Language Committee Terms of Reference

At present, the Language Committee was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Council's Language Scheme and would also be responsible for responding to the language standards when they were published. At its meeting on 16 April 2013, the Committee recommended that the following clause be added to the terms of reference '..... Act as a consultative body on strategies promoting the Welsh language within the county by making recommendations to the Cabinet as necessary.'

He noted that the Committee would wish to have full responsibility for any strategies to promote the language within the county, instead of the Cabinet, but this was not legally possible under the present legislation. The Cabinet members had discussed the wishes of the Language Committee and they, in turn, had proposed that any strategies which they developed to promote the Welsh language be presented to the full Council for adoption. Therefore, it recommended that "A strategy to promote the Welsh language within the County" be added to the list of plans requiring full Council approval.

The Council's Procedural Rules

The current Procedural Rule 22(4) stated that the Chairman would take the vote by show of hands. As the Council now had an electronic voting system in Siambr Dafydd Orwig, it was recommended that the rule be deleted. This would leave it open to the Chairman of any meeting to decide on the most appropriate way to vote.

Trusts

The Council acted as trustee to a number of local trusts or charities. A number of these were administered through schools, and others either by the Education Department or the Social Services Department. It was recommended to formalise this by including in the Delegation to Officers Scheme that the trusts be administered by the relevant Head of Department in consultation with the local member or members.

Ombudsman's Reports

If the Ombudsman considered that there was maladministration within the Council, he could publish a public report making recommendations. Giving consideration to such a report was not a matter that the Cabinet could deal with. As the Audit Committee had the task of considering the governance arrangements of the Council in general, it was recommended that the Audit Committee was the appropriate body to consider such reports and that the following clause be added to that committee's terms of reference "..... the power to consider reports from

the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales under Section 19 of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005."

Delegation to Officers

Following the deletion of the Head of Provider and Leisure Department post the functions of the department had been divided between the Head of Social Services, Housing and Leisure Department, the Head of Education Department, the Head of Customer Care Department and the Head of Highways and Municipal Department. He recommended that the Scheme of Delegation to Officers should be amended to reflect these changes.

- (b) Members were invited to make observations.
 - i) In relation to the Council's Procedural Rule and specifically the new system of electronic voting in Siambwr Dafydd Orwig, a member suggested that the system should be tested at the beginning of every meeting to ensure that the cards were working.
 - ii) In relation to the terms of reference of the Language Committee, a member proposed an amendment that, as the Welsh language was a central and corporate matter for the Council that language matters should be submitted to the full Council rather than the Cabinet.

In response, the Monitoring Officer stated that, following the new system, some matters were the responsibility of the Cabinet. She noted that the wishes of the Language Committee would be for language matters not to be the responsibility of the Cabinet but rather the responsibility of the committee and that the committee would then report directly to the Council. Under current legal arrangements, it was not possible for the Council to take this responsibility from the Cabinet. It was possible for the Council to decide on the final strategy and it would be possible for the Language Committee to make recommendations to the Council as well as to the Cabinet. She also noted that the Language Committee had decided to write to the Welsh Government to ask for changes to be introduced to the act in relation to transferring all responsibilities for language matters from the Cabinet to the Council and its response was awaited.

A vote was taken on the amendment.

The Chairman reported that the amendment had fallen.

- iii) A member expressed concern that the Head of Customer Care had been given additional responsibilities with the addition of the cleaning and caretakers services to her current work load.

**RESOLVED to make the following amendments to the Constitution -
i) To add "Act as a consultative body on strategies promoting the Welsh language within the County by making recommendations to the Cabinet**

as necessary” to the terms of reference of the Language Committee in Part 3 of the Constitution.

ii) To add “A strategy to promote the Welsh language within the County” to the list of plans or strategies to be decided by the full Council in Part 3 of the Constitution.

iii) To delete procedural rule 22(4) (Voting by show of hands).

iv) To add the clause “In consultation with the local member(s) where relevant, to administer any charity or trust which relates to the functions of the department” to the scheme of delegation to officers in Part 3 of the Constitution.

v) To add “the power to consider reports from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales under Section 19 of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005” to the terms of reference of the Audit Committee in Part 3 of the Constitution.

vi) To delete section 5 “Head of Provider and Leisure Department” from the Scheme of Delegation to Officers in Part 3 of the Constitution and to add the following functions to the responsibilities of the relevant officers -

- 3.1 Head of Education Department - Catering
School Cleaning
- 8.1 Head of Customer Care Department - Cleaning
Caretakers
- 9.1 Head of Highways and Municipal Department – Cleaning of public toilets
- 16.1 Head of Social Services, Housing and Leisure Department - Home Care
Residential and Day Services
Leisure Centres
Sports Development
- 16.16 To act as a "responsible person" for the purposes of the Care Standards Act 2000.

8. PROTOCOL FOR MEMBERS' GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

- a) Submitted – the report of the Monitoring Officer noting that the Council had adopted the current protocol on Gifts and Hospitality in June 2004. Since 2004, a new Code of Conduct had been introduced together with guidelines by the Ombudsman for Public Services in Wales which had made it appropriate to review the contents of the protocol. As part of its work of promoting high standards of conduct within the Council, the Standards Committee had looked at the protocol and proposed some amendments. The main changes were to the form of the protocol rather than its contents. It now included a reference to the Code of Conduct and the guidelines together with general principles which should be of assistance to members.

She drew the members' attention to the need to register any offers of gifts or hospitality worth more than £25 whether accepted or declined. From now on, the Standards Committee would receive an annual report on the contents of the register as part of the monitoring of standards within the Council.

- b) Members were invited to submit observations.
- i) A member noted that it was important that a similar protocol was adopted for officers also.

In response, the Monitoring Officer stated that a similar protocol existed for officers and that it was part of the constitution.

- ii) In relation to the need to register any offer of gift or hospitality worth more than £25, a member proposed an amendment, namely that the sum should be reduced to £10.
Another member noted that the matter had been discussed by the Standards Committee and, in general, the sum of £25 was used by councils across Wales.

In accordance with procedural rule 19(6), the following vote was recorded on the amendment, namely that any offer of gift or hospitality worth more than £10 should be registered.

In favour: (19) Councillors Anwen Davies, Lesley Day, Huw Edwards, Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, John B. Hughes, Louise Hughes, Jason Humphreys, Aeron Jones, Sion W. Jones, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dewi Owen, Peter Read, Eirwyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams, Owain Williams, Robert J. Wright

Against: (40) Councillors Craig ab Iago, Eddie Dogan, Dyfed Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Tom Ellis, Alan Jones Evans, Jean Forsyth, Sian Gwenllian, Annwen Hughes, Peredur Jenkins, Anne Lloyd Jones, Charles W. Jones, Dyfrig Jones, Elin Walker Jones, John W. Jones, Linda W. Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Beth Lawton, June Marshall, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Michael Sol Owen, W. Roy Owen, W. Tudor Owen, Caerwyn Roberts, John P. Roberts, Liz Saville Roberts, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Ioan Thomas, Paul Thomas, Ann Williams, Gethin G. Williams, Hefin Williams, John W. Williams, R.H. Wyn Williams, Mandy Williams-Davies, Eurig Wyn

Abstentions: (3) Councillors Gwen Griffith, Chris Hughes, Angela Russell

Did not vote: (6) Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Aled Ll. Evans, Brian Jones, Eric M. Jones, Dafydd Meurig, Elfed Williams

The Chairman reported that the amendment had fallen.

RESOLVED to adopt the amended Protocol for Gifts and Hospitality and to include it as part of the constitution.

9. SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

- a) The background and context for the report was given by Councillor Lesley Day, Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and she gave an

update regarding the support available and developments realised and in the pipeline.

Reference was made specifically to the following matters -

- i) That 70 of the 75 members had now received an iPad and that from now on agendas etc. would be sent to them electronically with the exception of those members who did not have an iPad and those who wished to continue to receive paper copies.
- ii) Should problems arise with the iPad, the Council's Information Technology Department should be contacted.
- iii) A letter had been sent to members offering further training on the iPad.
- iv) The first electronic members' bulletin had been published in April 2013.
- v) That Siambwr Dafydd Orwig had been modernised by installing new sound and translation equipment and an electronic voting system and it was anticipated that webcasting would be operational in the near future.
- vi) That the Local Government (Wales) Measure (2011) noted that members could write annual reports. The Democratic Services Committee had decided to hold a pilot of the system this year in order to learn lessons in relation to the best format to use and to enable the Council to establish the appropriate support for elected members who wished to produce reports in future. The reports from the pilot would be published on the Council's website by the end of June 2013.
- vii) That scrutiny investigations had been held to look into the impact of policies on the area.
- viii) That the procedure of asking a member of the Cabinet to report on elements of his/her work at the Council meeting had commenced.

b) Members were invited to make observations.

- i) A member expressed concern that the Information Portal had been suspended for a period.
- ii) A member noted that he did not like the name "Area Assembly".
- iii) A member drew attention to the fact that a room within the Council Offices had been converted into a room for Cabinet members. He asked who had authorised this conversion and what the cost had been.

In response, the Chief Executive stated that when the Cabinet had been established there had been a choice regarding the provision of offices for members. He noted that several councils provided separate offices for each Cabinet member; however, in order to save money one room only had been adapted for them.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

10. MEMBER SALARIES

The Council Leader set out the background and context of the report.

He noted that for 2012/13 and subsequent years, members' salaries and expenses would be paid in accordance with the decisions of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales which had come into force following the May 2012 elections. The requirements had been reviewed during 2012/13, but no amendments had been noted for the salaries and expenses noted for 2013/14, which stood as follows -

Ordinary Councillors £13,175 (Basic Salary)
Council Leader £47,500 (Senior Salary)
Deputy Council Leader £33,460 (Senior Salary)
Cabinet Member £28,780 (Senior Salary)
Committee Chair £21,910 (Senior Salary)
Political Group Leader £16,920 (Senior Salary)
Chairman of the Council £21,375 (Civic Salary)
Vice-chairman of the Council £16,625 (Civic Salary)

The Council did not have the right to change these sums. Individual members had the right to waive the whole or part of their salary should they wish to do so.

There were five categories of members eligible to receive senior salaries, namely, the Council Leader, Deputy Council Leader, Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Political Group Leaders. The number of senior salaries payable was limited to 18 in Gwynedd. At three meetings of the Council during the year, it had been resolved to allocate senior salaries as follows -

Council Leader and nine Cabinet members (including the Deputy Leader)
Chairs of the three Scrutiny Committees
Chairs of the Audit Committee, Planning Committee, Licensing Committee and Employment Appeals Committee
Leader of the largest Group outside the Cabinet

He noted that, in accordance with the requirements of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, the only adjustments for 2013/14 were as follows -

- a) The Council must pay a senior salary to the Leader of the largest group outside the Cabinet, subject to at least 10% of the Council members being on the group. The Council had foreseen this requirement in December 2012 when it had allocated senior salaries, therefore, the Council had already fulfilled this requirement.
- b) Individual authorities may decide on the maximum number of days for which co-opted members may be paid in any one year and that the maximum in 2012/13 had been 10 days and that the maximum of 10 days should remain in accordance with the 2012/13 guidance.
- c) In accordance with the Panel's indication during 2011/12, elected members were entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme from 2013/14 onwards.

No further changes were required by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

RESOLVED to allocate senior salaries to the following posts for 2013/14, as in 2012/13 -
Council Leader
Deputy Council Leader
Cabinet Members
Chairs of the three Scrutiny Committees
Chairs of the Audit Committee, Planning Committee, Licensing Committee and Employment Appeals Committee
Leader of the largest Group outside the Cabinet

11. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

- i) The Council Leader set out the background and context of the report.
- a) Reported –
 Following the 2013/13 elections, with the last of the elections held on 14 June 2012, the Council's political constitution was as follows -
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|-------------------|-----------|
| Plaid Cymru | 37 |
| Independent | 18 |
| Llais Gwynedd | 14 |
| Labour | 4 |
| Liberal Democrats | 2 |
| Total | 75 |
- b) The four main rules in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 regarding the allocation of seats.
- c) That a meeting of the Council's Business Group had been held on 24 April 2013 to discuss the matter and as there had been no change to the political balance since the last election on 14 June 2012, it was recommended that the same seat allocation for 2012/13 be held in 2013/14.
- ch) 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. The only committees of which the chairs were allocated on the basis of political balance were the following Scrutiny Committees -
 Corporate Scrutiny Committee – Llais Gwynedd
 Communities Scrutiny Committee – Independent
 Services Scrutiny Committee – Plaid Cymru
- d) The Chair of the Audit Committee could not be a member of a political group represented on the executive and it was the Full Council that would appoint the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and it could not appoint a member of a political group represented on the executive.
- dd) As there had been no change to the political balance, it was recommended that the allocation of chairpersonships, in accordance with the statutory rules, would remain in accordance with the allocation for 2012/13.

- e) That there were 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 could not chair the Licensing Committee. The committees themselves would elect their chairpersons in these cases subject to the procedural rules limiting the term of a Chairperson to two years.
- ii) Members were invited to make observations.
- a) A member noted that the three scrutiny committees had very different responsibilities. He referred specifically to the work that the Services Scrutiny Committee had to scrutinise two of the Council's main services, namely Education and Social Services, compared with the smaller services the two other scrutiny committees were responsible for. He was of the opinion that the chairpersonships of these committees should alternate between the different groups, every two years, on a rota basis, in fairness. He proposed this as an amendment.

In response, the Monitoring Officer noted that the Chair and Vice-chair of the various committees were elected annually and that the procedure that had been operational for several years now was that the committee chair was in post for a period of two years. As there had only been a year since the current chairs had been in post, she was of the opinion that the matter should be discussed this time next year when their period of two years would be coming to an end.

Following the response, the member was of the opinion that this should be accepted in principle today and he proposed this as part of the amendment.

A vote was taken on the amendment.

The Chairman reported that the amendment had fallen.

RESOLVED

i) To adopt seat allocation on the Council's committees in accordance with the table below and in accordance with what was adopted for 2012/13 –

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
Democratic 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	1	
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	4	2	1		
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one substitute)	2	1	1	

Total seats	96	47	36	10	5	194
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ii) To 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.

iii) To adopt the allocation of the chairpersonships of the Scrutiny Committees on the basis of political balance, in accordance with the allocation of 2012/13 as follows -

Corporate Scrutiny Committee – Llais Gwynedd
Communities Scrutiny Committee - Independent

Services Scrutiny Committee – Plaid Cymru

12. CHAIR OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee needed to be elected for 2013/14.

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Lesley Day as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee for 2013/14.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 3.30pm.

CHAIRMAN