

MEETING OF	THE COUNCIL
DATE	10th December 2015
TITLE OF THE REPORT	THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE
PURPOSE	To review 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 As a result of changes in memberships of political groups, the political constitution of the Council is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	39
Independent	19
Llais Gwynedd	8
Labour	5
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Member	2
Total	75

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 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.

The Council is expected to adhere to the rules as far as practically possible.

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. The allocation of seats has been discussed by the Leaders of the Political Groups who have asked us to adhere to the rules within the context of their aim to ensure strong attendance across all political parties where practically possible.

3. CHANGES TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

- 3.1 The change to the political balance means that the Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Communities and Services Scrutiny Committees and the Audit Committee at the expense of the Llais Gwynedd Group which loses one seat on each of the Communities and Services Scrutiny Committees, and the Labour Group loses one seat on the Audit Committee. The Independent Group will also gain a seat on the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at the expense of the Labour Group.
- 3.2 It also means that the Independent Group gains a seat on the Planning Committee at the expense of the Llais Gwynedd Group. It also means that the Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Appointment of Principal Officers Committee at the expense of the Llais Gwynedd Group.
- 3.3 It also means that the Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Pensions Committee at the expense of the Labour Group. It also means that the Labour Group gains a seat on the Local Consultative Joint Committee at the expense of the Llais Gwynedd Group.
(See **Appendix A**)
- 3.4 As the recommendation does not fully reflect the political balance as it currently stands, members must vote for the proposal unopposed.
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4. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to discuss and agree to the change in the allocation of seats on the committees as noted in 3.1 – 3.3 above.

APPENDIX A

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Corporate	9	5	2	1	1	
Communities	10	4	1	1	1	1
Services	10	4	2	1		1
Audit	10	5	2	1		

OTHER COMMITTEES

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

Number of seats	82	39	16	9	4	4	154
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Pensions	4	2	0	0	1	
Local Consultative Joint Committee	6	2	1	2		
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	3	2	1			1
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one substitute)	2	1	1		
SACRE	4	2	1			

Total seats	103	49	20	12	5	5	194
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