

# GWYNEDD COUNCIL

## Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council

**Date of Meeting:** 23 June 2022

**Title of Item:** The Council's political balance and appointment to the Police and Crime Panel

**Contact Officer:** Geraint Owen,  
Head of Democracy Services

### 1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

The Council is asked to:

- 1.1 adopt the allocations of seats as noted in **Appendix A**, and delegate the authority to the Head of Democracy Services to make appointments to the committees on the basis of political balance, and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.
- 1.3 nominate members to represent the Council on the Police and Crime Panel for the duration of this Council term in accordance with the allocation given to Gwynedd.

### BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

#### 2. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

- 2.1 In accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the political balance of the Council must be reviewed following a request when a change to the political balance occurs.
- 2.2 A new political group has been formed, namely the Liberal/Labour Group, led by Councillor Stephen Churchman.
- 2.3 Following the change, the political balance for Cyngor Gwynedd is as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number</u>
Plaid Cymru	44
Independent	23
Liberal/Labour	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>

## **ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES**

- 2.4 To remind members, the four main rules in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in relation to the allocation of seats are noted here:-
- (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.
- 2.5 In order to ensure that these rules are adhered to, the Council has been dealing with committees in different blocks in the past. This makes it easier to ensure that rule (c) in paragraph 2.4 above is also adhered to.
- 2.6 Following the review of the political balance, note that the seats allocated to the two individual members in the original review have now been allocated to the new political group. There is no effect on the allocation of seats for the other political groups. Please find a copy in **Appendix A**.

## **3. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

- 3.1 The Council will be required to identify members to represent the Council on the Police and Crime Panel. The membership of the panel will reflect political balance across North Wales as far as possible. We have received the seat allocation on the Panel for Gwynedd, as follows:
- 1 Plaid Cymru Group
  - 1 Independent Group
- 3.2 Members nominated to the Police and Crime Panel will be required to have the necessary knowledge and experience in order for the Police and Crime Panel to fulfil its functions effectively, and this should be taken into consideration when nominating representatives. The names will be submitted to the Home Office for approval.
- 3.3 Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen has been nominated by Plaid Cymru Group. A nomination will be presented by the leader of the Independent Group to the Full Council Meeting on 23/06/22. The Full Council is asked to nominate the two members to the role.

## **4. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

4.1 The Council's Business Group was consulted.

4.2 **THE STATUTORY OFFICERS' OBSERVATIONS:**

**Monitoring Officer:**

I'm content with the propriety of the report. It correctly reflects the legal position.

**Statutory Finance Officer:**

No comments from the perspective of financial propriety.

## APPENDIX A - ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

A	Plaid Cymru	Independents	Liberal/Labour	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	12	6	0	18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	11	6	1	18
Care Scrutiny Committee	11	6	1	18
Governance and Audit	8	4	0	12

B	Plaid Cymru	Independents	Liberal/Labour	Total
Democratic Services	9	5	1	15
Planning	9	5	1	15
Central / General Licensing	10	5	0	15
Language	10	5	0	15
Chief Officers Appointment	10	5	0	15
Employment Appeals	5	2	0	7

<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>148</b>
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C	Plaid Cymru	Independents	Liberal/Labour	Total
Pensions	4	2	1	7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	7	4	0	11
SACRE	4	3	0	7
Joint Planning Policy Committee	5	2	0	7

<b>Total seats</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>180</b>
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