

# GWYNEDD COUNCIL



## Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council

**Date of Meeting:** 8 July 2021

**Title of Item:** Review of the Council's political balance

**Contact Officer:** Geraint Owen, Head of Democracy Services  
(Head of Corporate Support Department)

### 1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

The Council is asked to:

- adopt the seats allocation as noted in the appendix A.
- 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.

### 2. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

#### 2.1. INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 At the annual meeting of the full Council on **13 May 2021**, it was reported that the political constitution of the Council was as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	39
Independent	21
Llais Gwynedd	6
United Independent Group for Gwynedd	3
Propel Group	2
Individual Member	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

2.1.2 Since then, the following changes:

- A by-election was held in Harlech following the resignation of Freya Bentham, Independent group.
- Councillor Gwynfor Owen, Plaid Cymru Group, has been elected to represent Harlech ward.

2.1.3 Therefore, the Council's political balance is now as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	40
Independent	20
Llais Gwynedd	6
United Independent Group for Gwynedd	3
Propel Group	2
Individual Member	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

## 2.2 ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

2.2.1 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:-

- (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.

2.2.2 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 2.2.1 above is adhered to.

## 2.3 CHANGES TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

2.3.1 The rule noted in 2.2.1 (b) above means that there is no effect on the political balance for Plaid Cymru Group. However, the changes to the political balance as a result of the review are as follows:

- Group Llais Gwynedd gains one seat on the Language Committee at the expense of the Independent Group.

2.3.3 The Council is requested to adopt the seating allocation in accordance with the political balance as noted in **Appendix A**.

## 3. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

3.1 The Council's Business Group was consulted as usual, however due to the very limited time scale the consultation was held through electronic means by prior arrangement with the Political Group Leaders.

### **3.2 STATUTORY OFFICERS' OBSERVATIONS:**

#### **Monitoring Officer:**

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

#### **Statutory Finance Officer:**

Nothing to add to the report from a financial propriety perspective.

## APPENDIX A – ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

A	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Propel Group	United Independent Group for Gwynedd	Individual Member	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	10	5	1	1	1	0	18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	10	5	2		0	1	18
Care Scrutiny Committee	10	5	1	1	0	1	18
Audit and Governance	10	5	1		1	1	18

B	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	The National Party	United Independent Group for Gwynedd	Individual Member	Total
Democratic Services	8	4	1	1	1		15
Planning	8	4	1		1	1	15
Central Licensing	8	4	1		0	2	15
Language	8	4 ( i lawr o 5)	2 ( up from 1)		1		15
Chief Officers Appointment	8	4	1	1	0	1	15
Employment Appeals	4	2	1		0		7
<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>154</b>

C	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	The National Party	United Independent Group for Gwynedd	Individual Member	Total
Pensions	4	2	0		0	1	7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	6	3	1		1		11
SACRE	4	1	0	1	0	1	7
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4	2	1		0		8

<b>Total seats</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>186</b>
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