CYNGOR GWYNEDD

Report to a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd

Date of Meeting: **3 December 2026**

Title of Item: **Review of the Council's Political Balance**

Contact Officer: **Ian Jones, Head of Democratic Services**
(Head of Corporate Support Department)

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

The Council is asked to:

- adopt the seats allocation as noted in **Appendix A** and delegate the power to the Head of Democratic Services to make appointments to the committees on the basis of the political balance and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.

2. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

2.1. INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 At the meeting of the full Council on 14th **May, 2026** it was reported that the Council's political balance was as follows:

Group	Number
Plaid Cymru	44
Independent	21
Gwynedd First	2
Individual Members	2
Total	**69**

2.1.2 Since then, the following change have taken place:

- Councillor Gareth A roberts has joined Plaid Cymru Group, he is no longer an individual member.

2.1.3 The Council's political balance therefore is as follows:

Group	Number
Plaid Cymru	45
Independent	21
Gwynedd First	2
Individual Member	1
Total	**69**

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 rules noted in 2.2.1 present the following changes to the seating allocation due to the political balance review:

- Plaid Cymru group gain one seat on each of the following committees at the expense of Individual Member
    - Language Committee
    - SACRE

2.3.2 The Council is required 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

4.1 The Council's Business Group was consulted.

4.2 STATUTORY OFFICERS' OBSERVATIONS:

Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety

Statutory Finance Officer:

Nothing to add from the perspective of financial propriety.

APPENDIX A - ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

A	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Gwynedd First	Individual Member	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	12	6	0	0	18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	12	5	1	0	18
Care Scrutiny Committee	12	5	1	0	18
Audit and Governance	8	4	0	0	12

B	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Gwynedd First	Individual Member	Total
Democratic Services	9	4	1	1	15
Planning	10	4	1	0	15
Central Licensing	10	5	0	0	15
Language	10	5	0	0	15
Chief Officers Appointment	10	5	0	0	15
Employment Appeals	5	2	0	0	7
Number of seats	**98**	**45**	**4**	**1**	**148**

C	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Gwynedd First	Individual Member	Total
Pensions	4	2	1	0	7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	6	4	0	1	11
SACRE	5	2	0	0	7

Total seats	**115**	**53**	**5**	**2**	**173**