

COMMITTEE	THE FULL COUNCIL
DATE	21 OCTOBER, 2010
TITLE OF REPORT	POLITICAL BALANCE
PURPOSE	To Review the Political Balance of the Council
RECOMMENDATION	To apportion Seat's on the Council Committees
AUTHOR	Head of Democracy and Legal
PORTFOLIO LEADER	Councillor John R. Jones

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council has to ensure that the constitution of its committees and sub-committees reflect the strength of the various political groups represented on the Council.
- 1.2 Following the resignation of two members and the loss of a third, three by elections were held, the first in Diffwys and Maenofferen on 15 July, the second in Bowydd a Rhiw on 30 September and the third in Seiont, Caernarfon on 7 October.
- 1.3 The political balance of the Council following the by elections is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	36
Independent	17
Llais Gwynedd	13
Liberal Democrats	5
Labour	4
Total	75

2. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

- 2.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out four main rules on the allocation of seats:-
- 2.2 (a) Not all the seats on a committee may be allocated to the same political group;
- (b) The majority of seats on the committee must be allocated to the political group where the number of persons within the group forms a majority of Council members;
- (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the total number of seats on the ordinary committees allocated to each political group will equal that group's total number of seats on the Council;

(ch) subject to (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 hold on the Council.

- 2.3 In order to ensure that these rules are adhered to, the Council, has dealt with committees in different blocks. This makes it easier to ensure that rule (c) in paragraph 2.2 above is adhered to.
- 2.4 If it is agreed to change the apportionment of seats, the Independent Group will lose two seats to the Plaid Cymru Group. (see **Appendix A**)
- 2.5 The Council Business Group met on 12 October, 2010 and it was agreed to recommend the changes to the committees as noted in 2.4 above.

3. CHAIRPERSONSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONSHIPS

- 3.1 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authority (Alternative Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2007 it is necessary to apportion committee chairpersonships, in order to ensure, as far as it is practicable, that the political balance of the authority is reflected by those said chairpersonships.
- 3.2 The arrangement within this Council is to apportion the vice-chairpersonships also according to the political balance and to ask the Council Business Group to discuss the arrangements beforehand.
- 3.3 In accordance with regulation 6.2 of the Local Authority (Alternative Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2007 a member from the same political group as the chairperson of the Board cannot be chairperson or vice-chairperson of the Principal Scrutiny Committee nor chairperson of the Audit Committee.
- 3.4 In the meeting of the Council Business Group on 12 October, 2010 it was agreed to allocate the chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships as follows, Plaid Cymru Group 7, Independent Group 3, Llais Gwynedd Group 3, Liberal Democrat Group 1 and Labour Group 1, which means that the Independent Group gives one chair to the Llais Gwynedd Group.
- 3.5 That the Independent Group transfer the chair of the Human Resources Committee to the Llais Gwynedd Group. (see **Appendix B.**)

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Council is requested to:-
 - i. adopt the apportionment outlined in Appendix A.
 - ii. adopt the apportionment of chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships as outlined in Appendix B.

APPENDIX A

COUNCIL BOARD AND PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Council Board	7	4	2	1	1
Principal Scrutiny Committee	7	3	3	1	1

OTHER SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Development	8	3	3	1	
Environment	7	3	3	1	1
Children and Young People	7	3	3	1	1
Care	8	3	2	1	1

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Audit	7	4	3		1
Pensions	2	2	1	1	1
Planning	7	4	2	1	1
Central Licensing	5	3	2	1	
Local Joint Committee	5	2	2	1	1
Special Education Joint Committee	4	2	1		
SACRE	3	2	1	1	
Human Resources	6	2	2	1	
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1	1
Language	3	2	2		

APPENDIX B

	Committee	Chairperson	Vice-chairperson
1	Council Board	Plaid Cymru	Plaid Cymru
2	Principal Scrutiny Committee	Liberal Democrats	Independent
3	Children and Young People	Independent	Labour
4	Environment	Liberal Democrats	Plaid Cymru
5	Care	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
6	Development	Plaid Cymru	Plaid Cymru
7	Audit	Independent	Llais Gwynedd
8	Planning	Plaid Cymru	Llais Gwynedd
9	Central Licensing	Independent	Plaid Cymru
10	Pensions	Labour	Plaid Cymru
11	Human Resources	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
12	Employment Appeals	Plaid Cymru	Independent
13	Arfon Area	Plaid Cymru	Independent
14	Dwyfor Area	Llais Gwynedd	Plaid Cymru
15	Meirionnydd Area	Plaid Cymru	Llais Gwynedd