

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>THE FULL COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013</b>
<b>TITLE OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>Annual review of the Council's Political Balance</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>To allocate seats on the Council's Committees</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Geraint George, Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd</b>

## **1. CYFLWYNIAD**

1.1 Following the 2012/13 elections, with the last of the elections held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 the Council's political constitution is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	37
Independent	18
Llais Gwynedd	14
Labour	4
Liberal Democrats	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

## **2. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES**

2.1 To remind members, noted here are the four main rules included in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 regarding the allocation of seats:-

- (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.

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 2.1 above is adhered to.

2.3 The Council Business Group was asked to meet to discuss the matter in order to present a recommendation to the Full Council and met on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.

2.4 There was no change in the political balance in Gwynedd Council since the last election held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2012, therefore, the Business Group recommends that the same seat allocation for 2012/13 be held in 2013/14.

(see **Appendix A**)

### **3. CHAIRPERSONSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONSHIPS**

3.1 In order to respond to the requirements of the Local Government Bill (Wales) 2011 in terms of allocation of chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships the committees are divided into separate blocks.

3.2 In accordance with the requirements of sections 66-75 of the Local Government Bill (Wales) 2011 (“the Bill”) it is a requirement to allocate the chairpersonships of scrutiny committees in order to ensure, as far as possible, that political balance is reflected in those chairpersonships and that the groups that are not represented on the executive are give a fair proportion of the chairpersonships.

The only committees of which the chairs are allocated on the basis of political balance are the scrutiny committees. The chairs are to be allocated as follows:

Corporate	Llais Gwynedd
Communities	Independent
Services	Plaid Cymru

3.3 In accordance with section 83 of the Bill, the chairperson of the Audit Committee can not be a member of a political group which is represented on the executive.

3.4 In accordance with section 14 of the Bill, the chairperson of the Democratic Services Committee shall be appointed by the Full Council and it can not appoint a member of a political group which is represented on the executive.

3.5 Again, as there has been no change in the political balance, it is recommended that the allocation of chairpersonships, in accordance with the statutory rules, will remain in accordance with the allocation for 2012/13.

3.6 There are no statutory or constitutional provisions to control the appointments to the vice-chairpersonships or to the chairpersonships of the remaining committee (other than a member of the executive can not chair the Licensing Committee). The committees themselves will elect their chairpersons in these cases subject to the procedural rules limiting the term of a Chairperson to two years.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 The Council is asked to:-

➤ Adopt the allocation of seats as noted in Appendix A, which, as so happens, is in accordance with the allocation for 2012/13.

- 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.
  
- Adopt the allocation of the chairpersonships of the Scrutiny Committees on the basis of political balance, in accordance with the allocation of 2012/13 as follows:

Corporate Scrutiny Committee –	Llais Gwynedd
Communities Scrutiny Committee –	Independent
Services Scrutiny Committee –	Plaid Cymru

APPENDIX A

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Corporate	9	4	3	1	1
Communities	9	4	3	1	1
Services	9	5	3	1	
Audit	9	4	4	1	

OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Democratic Services	7	4	3	1	
Planning	7	3	3	1	1
Central Licensing	7	4	4		
Language	8	4	3		
Appointment of Principla Officers	7	4	2	1	1
Employment Appeals	4	1	1	1	

<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>154</b>
------------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	----------	----------	------------

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Pensions	3	2	1		1
SACRE	3	2	2		
Local Consultative Joint-committee	6	2	2	1	
Special Educational Needs Joint-committee	4	2	1		
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one seconder)	2	1	1	

<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>194</b>
--------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	----------	------------