

<b>MEETING OF</b>	<b>THE COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>19 September 2013</b>
<b>TITLE OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>To review the Council's Political Balance</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>Allocation of seats on the Council's Committees</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Councillor Dyfed Edwards</b>
<b>RELEVANT OFFICER</b>	<b>Head of Democracy and Legal Department</b>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Notice has been received that

1.1.1 Councillor John Brynmor Hughes is no longer a member of the Llais Gwynedd Group and that he wishes to be treated as an individual member

1.1.2 Councillor Dilwyn Lloyd has moved from the Independent Group to the Llais Gwynedd Group

1.2 Consequently, the political constitution of the Council is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	37
Independent	17
Llais Gwynedd	14
Labour	4
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Member	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

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

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:-

2.2 (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.

2.3 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 above is adhered to.

### **3. CHANGES TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES**

- 3.1 The change to the political balance means that the Individual Member gains a seat on the Audit Committee at the expense of the Llais Gwynedd Group which loses a seat on the Audit Committee.
- 3.2 It also means that Llais Gwynedd gains a seat on the Services Scrutiny Committee, at the expense of the Independent Group which loses a seat on the Services Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 It also means that the Individual Member gains a seat on the Joint Planning Policy Committee, at the expense of the Independent Group which loses a seat on the Joint Planning Policy Committee.  
(See **Appendix A**)

### **4. GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES.**

- 4.1 The changes to the political balance of the Council requires consideration of the allocation of seats on outside bodies, with specific attention in this case to the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and the Snowdonia National Park Authority, where representatives were appointed on the basis of political balance.
- 4.2 These recent changes are so marginal in number that there is no requirement on the Council to make any changes to the Council's representatives on these bodies in response to the changes in the political balance of the Council.
- 4.3 As it happens, John Brynmor Hughes represented the Group Llais Gwynedd on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, and Dilwyn Lloyd represented the Independent Group on the Snowdonia National Park Authority.
- 4.4 Usually, members are appointed to these bodies for the term of the Council. However, the opinion of the Business Group on 3 September 2013 was to adhere to the principle of political balance for Council representatives on outside bodies.
- 4.5 This means that the number of seats that every Group has on the Snowdonia National Park Authority, and the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority remains the same. However, the Independent Group will need to nominate another member to represent the Council on the Snowdonia National Park Authority, and the Llais Gwynedd Group will need to nominate another member to represent the Council on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.  
(See Appendix B)

### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is asked to:

- discuss and agree to the change in the allocation of seats on the committees as noted in 3.1 – 3.3 above

- agree that the representation on the Snowdonia National Park Authority and the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority should remain on the basis of political balance, and that the relevant groups would be invited to nominate other members to represent the Council on these bodies.

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

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

## OTHER COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Democratic Services	7	4	3	1		
Planning	7	3	3	1	1	
Central Licensing	7	4	4	0		
Language	8	4	3			
Appointment of Principal Officers	7	4	2	1	1	
Employment Appeals	4	1	1	1		

<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>154</b>
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
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 substitute)	1	1	1		1

<b>Total seats</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>194</b>
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## OUTSIDE BODIES

Body	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Snowdonia National Park Authority	4	2	2	1	0	0
North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority	3	1	1	0	0	0