

<b>MEETING OF</b>	<b>THE COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>5 December 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>

## **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Notice has been received that

1.1.1 Councillor John Brynmor Hughes is no longer an individual member and wishes to move to the Independent Group.

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

Plaid Cymru	37
Independent	18
Llais Gwynedd	14
Labour	4
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Member	0
<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 Independent Group gains a seat on the Audit Committee, and that the individual member loses a seat on the Audit Committee.
- 3.2 It also means that the Independent Group gains a seat on the Joint Planning Policy Committee, and that the individual member loses a seat on the Joint Planning Policy Committee.

(See **Appendix A**)

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

The Business Group is asked to:

- discuss and agree to the change in the allocation of seats on the committees as noted in 3.1 – 3.2 above according to the agreement of the Business Group.

## APPENDIX A

### 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	5	3	1		0

### 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)	2	1	1		0

<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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