

MEETING OF	THE COUNCIL
DATE	5 March 2015
TITLE OF THE REPORT	THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE
PURPOSE	To review the Council's Political Balance
RECOMMENDATION	Allocation of seats on the Council's Committees
AUTHOR	Councillor Dyfed Edwards
RELEVANT OFFICER	Head of Democratic Services

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Notice has been received that:

i.) Councillor Charles Wyn Jones no longer wishes to be treated as an Individual Member and that he has joined the Plaid Cymru Group.

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

Plaid Cymru	36
Independent	18
Llais Gwynedd	13
Labour	4
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Member	2
Total	75

1.3 At the end of January, the sad news was received of the death of Councillor Huw Edwards.

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 Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Audit Committee at the expense of the Individual Member.
- 3.2 It also means that the Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Language Committee at the expense of the Individual Member which loses a seat on the Language Committee.
- 3.3 It also means that the Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Local Consultative Joint Committee at the expense of the Individual Member which loses a seat on the Local Consultative Joint Committee.
(See **Appendix A**)
- 3.4 Following a by-election in the Cadnant Ward, Caernarfon, it is possible that there will be further amendments to the political balance of the Council.

4. 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 in accordance with 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	8	4	3	1	1	1
Services	9	4	3	1		1
Audit	9	5	3	1		

OTHER COMMITTEES

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

Number of seats	74	37	27	8	4	4	154
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Pensions	3	2	1		1	
Local Consultative Joint Committee	6	2	2	1		
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	3	2	1			1
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one substitute)	2	1	1		
SACRE	3	2	2			

Total seats	93	47	34	10	5	5	194
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