

MEETING OF	THE COUNCIL
DATE	9TH July 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 As a result of changes in memberships of political groups, the political constitution of the Council is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	37
Independent	18
Llais Gwynedd	10
Labour	5
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Member	2
Total	74

- 1.2 There is currently one empty seat in the Morfa Nefyn Ward. (See 4.1 below)

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 Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee at the expense of the Llais Gwynedd Group which loses a seat on both the above Committees.
- 3.2 It also means that the Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Democratic Services Committee, the Language Committee, the Planning Committee and the Central Licensing Committee at the expense of the Llais Gwynedd Group which loses one seat on each of the Committees stated above.
- 3.3 It also means that the Plaid Cymru Group gains a seat on the Pensions Committee and on the SACRE Committee at the expense of the Llais Gwynedd Group which loses a seat on the above Committees. (See **Appendix A**)

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 In addition, it is important to note that a bi-election is being held today, 9th July 2015 in the Morfa Nefyn ward. The possible impact on the Council's Political Balance of the result of the bi-election will not be considered until the next meeting of the Full Council to be held on 8th October, 2015.

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 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	9	4	2	1	1	1
Services	9	4	3	1		1
Audit	9	5	2	2		

OTHER COMMITTEES

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

Number of seats	78	37	21	10	4	4	154
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Pensions	3	2	0	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	4	2	1			

Total seats	98	47	26	13	5	5	194
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