

MEETING	FULL COUNCIL
DATE	12TH July 2018
TITLE OF REPORT	COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE
PURPOSE	Review the Council's political balance following recent changes to the Council's political constitution.
ARGYMHELLIAD	Adopt the allocation of seats based on the revised political balance of the Council
AWDUR	Geraint Owen Head of Democratic Services

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A report to the Full Council meeting on 3rd May, 2018 noted that the Council's political balance is as follows:

Plaid Cymru	41
Independent	22
Llais Gwynedd	6
Liberal/Labour	2
Gwynedd United Independents	3
Individual Member	1

TOTAL **75**

1.2 Since then, Councillor Sion Jones has left the Liberal/Labour Group and become a member of the Independent Group.

1.3 As a result of the above, the Liberal/Labour Group on Gwynedd Council no longer exists. Councillor Stephen Churchman remains a member of the Liberal Democrats. As more than one Member is required to form a group, for the purpose of the political balance, the member will be treated as an individual member.

1.4 To summarise, following the changes noted, the political constitution of the Council is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	41
Annibynnol	23
Llais Gwynedd	6
Gwynedd United Independents	3
Individual Member	2

Total **75**

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 total seats the members of that group have 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 the members of that group have 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 SEATS ALLOCATED ON COMMITTEES

- 3.1 The changes mean that the Independent Group gains a seat on the Audit and Governance Committee and the Licensing Committee. These seats were previously Lib/Lab seats. In accordance with the political balance rules, it will be necessary for the Leader of the Independent Group to appoint members on these two seats.
- 3.2 The changes also mean that Individual Members gain seats on the Communities Scrutiny Committee, Planning Committee and Pensions Committee. These seats were previously Lib/Lab seats. It is a matter for full Council to appoint to seats that have not been designated to a political group. It is recommended that the present holder of the three seats transferring from the former Lib/Lab Group, Councillor Stephen Churchman, is appointed on those committees to ensure consistency.
- 3.3 The proposed changes are shown in **Appendix A**, with the changes coloured yellow.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To adopt the allocation of seats based on the revised political balance of the Council.
- 4.2 The Council is requested to appoint Councillor Stephen Churchman on the individual seats on the Communities Scrutiny Committee, the Planning Committee and the Pensions Committee.

APPENDIX A – ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

A	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal/ Labour	Gwynedd United Independents	Individual Members	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	10	5	2	0	1		18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	10	5	2	4 0	0	1	18
Care Scrutiny Committee	10	5	1	0	1	1	18
Audit and Governance	10	5 6	1	4 0	1		18

B	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal/ Labour	Gwynedd United Independents	Individual Members	Total
Democratic Services	8	5	1	0	1		15
Planning	8	4	1	4 0	1	1	15
Central Licensing	8	4 5	1	4 0	0	1	15
Language	8	5	1	0	1		15
Penodi Prif Swyddogion	8	5	2	0	0		15
Employment Appeals	4	2	1	0	0		7
Number of seats	84	45	13	4	6	4	154

C	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Liberal/ Labour	Gwynedd United Independents	Individual Members	Total
Pensions	4	2	0	4 0	0	1	7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	6	3	1	0	1		11
SACRE	4	3	0	0	0		7
Joint Planning Policy Committee	5	2	1	0	0		8
Total seats	103	57	15	0	7	5	187