

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council

Date of Meeting: 19 May 2022

Title of Item: The Council's political balance (additional paper for Item 10)

Contact Officer: Geraint Owen,
Head of Democracy Services

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

The Council is asked to:

- 1.1 adopt the list of committees and sub-committees to be established for the 2022/23 municipal year, as noted in **Appendix A**, and to adopt the allocation of seats as noted in the appendix.
- 1.2 delegate the authority to the Head of Democracy Services to make appointments to the committees on the basis of political balance, and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.
- 1.3 adopt the chairpersonships of scrutiny committees on the basis of political balance as follows, 2 Chairs for the Independent Group and 1 Chair for Plaid Cymru Group. An update of which Chair is to be allocated to which group will be made at the Full Council meeting.

	<u>Seat to be allocated to:</u>
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Group
Communities Scrutiny Committee	Group
Care Scrutiny Committee	Group

- 1.4 adopt the higher salaries for 2022/23, and to ask the Democratic Services Committee to review the list for 2023/24.
- 1.5 confirm the allocation of the political groups support officers' posts and hours for the duration of this Council term unless a substantial change takes place in the political balance of the Council or that a political group has fewer than 10% of members.
- 1.6 adopt the seat allocation for the Snowdonia National Park Authority and the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for the term of this Council unless a review is

required because of changes in the political balance or a lack of commitment from an individual member.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

2. THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

2.1. Following the May 2022 Local Government elections, the Gwynedd Council political balance is as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number</u>
Plaid Cymru	44
Independent	23
Individual Members	2
Total	69

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

2.2. In accordance with this Council's procedures, a draft of the political balance was submitted for discussion by the Council's Business Group (namely a meeting of the Council's political group leaders). The Business Group's recommendations for seat allocation on the various committees are submitted in the Appendix to this report.

3. CHAIRMANSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS

3.1 The only committees for which the chairs are to be allocated on the basis of political balance are the Scrutiny Committees. There are specific rules to follow when calculating the scrutiny chairpersonship rights on the basis of political balance. The rules attempt to ensure that the groups that are not represented on the Executive are given a fair proportion of the chairpersonships. By following these rules, the chairpersonships are allocated as follows:

Independent Group – 2 chairs, Plaid Cymru Group – 1 chair.

3.2 The recommendation to attribute the Scrutiny Chairpersonships will be presented to the Council meeting:

Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	group
Communities Scrutiny Committee	group
Care Scrutiny Committee	group

4. SENIOR SALARIES

4.1 The list of senior salaries recommended for 2022/23 is as follows:

- Leader
- Deputy Leader
- Up to 8 other Cabinet members

- The Leader of the largest Opposition*
- Committee Chairs
 - Scrutiny Committees (x3)
 - Planning Committee
 - Licensing Committee (the Central and General Licensing committees count as one Committee)
 - Pensions Committee

5. POLITICAL GROUPS' SUPPORT OFFICERS

5.1 The hours of political support are allocated between the eligible groups as follows:

Plaid Cymru Group	36 hours
Independent Group	19 hours

6. OUTSIDE BODIES

6.1 It is the Council that decides on allocations of the seats to bodies that require political balance. There are two of these, namely

- Snowdonia National Park Authority, and
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

6.2 The seats on the two outside authorities are allocated as follows:

AUTHORITY	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Individual Members	Total
Snowdonia National Park Authority	6	3	0	9
North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority	3	2	0	5

6.3 The aforementioned allocation of seats will stand for the term of this Council unless a review is required due to a change to the political balance or a lack of commitment from an individual member. The political group leaders have received a copy of a protocol and job description for appointing to the roles on the National park, and roles on both outside bodies receive additional remuneration.

6.4 Police and Crime Panel. As stated in the original report, the Council is required to identify members to represent the Council on the Police and Crime Panel. The allocation as per political balance is not available to date, therefore I will report further on this matter to the Full Council meeting on 23rd June, 2022.

7. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

7.1 As usual, the Council's Business Group was consulted during although the timeframe was tight.

APPENDIX A - ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

A	Plaid Cymru	Independents	Individual Members	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	12	6	0	18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	11	6	1	18
Care Scrutiny Committee	11	6	1	18
Governance and Audit	8	4	0	12

B	Plaid Cymru	Independents	Individual Members	Total
Democratic Services	9	5	1	15
Planning	9	5	1	15
Central / General Licensing	10	5	0	15
Language	10	5	0	15
Chief Officers Appointment	10	5	0	15
Employment Appeals	5	2	0	7

Number of seats	95	49	4	148
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C	Plaid Cymru	Independents	Individual Members	Total
Pensions	4	2	1	7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	7	4	0	11
SACRE	4	3	0	7
Joint Planning Policy Committee	5	2	0	7

Total seats	115	60	5	180
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Note that the 17 higher salaries allocated for the 2022/23 financial year are as follows:

- Leader
- Deputy Leader
- Up to 8 other Cabinet members
- The Leader of the largest Opposition*
- Committee Chairs
 - Scrutiny Committees (x3)
 - Planning Committee
 - Licensing Committee (the Central and General Licensing committees count as one Committee)
 - Pensions Committee