

CYNGOR GWYNEDD

Report to a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd

Date of Meeting: 7 March 202

Title of Item: Review of the Council's Political Balance

Contact Officer: Ian Jones, Head of Democratic Services
(Head of Corporate Support Department)

1. THE DECISION SOUGHT

The Council is asked to:

- adopt the seats allocation as noted in **Appendix A** and delegate the power to the Head of Democratic Services to make appointments to the committees on the basis of the political balance and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.
- nominate a member of the Independent Group to represent the Council on the Police and Crime Panel for the duration of this Council term

2. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

2.1. INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 At the meeting of the full Council on 4th **May, 2023** it was reported that the Council's political balance was as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number</u>
Plaid Cymru	44
Independent	23
Lib/Lab	2
Total	69

2.1.2 Since then, the following change have taken place:

- Councillor John Pughe has left the Independent Group and joined Plaid Cymru Group
- A by-election has been held in Ward Cricieth following the death of Councillor Eirwyn Williams, Independent Group
- Councillor Sian Williams was elected to Ward Cricieth, and has become a member of the Plaid Cymru Group

2.1.3 The Council's political balance therefore is as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number</u>
Plaid Cymru	46
Independent	21
Lib/Lab	2
Total	69

2.2 ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

2.2.1 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:-

(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.

2.2.2 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 2.2.1 above is adhered to.

2.3 CHANGES TO THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

2.3.1 The rules noted in 2.2.1 present the following changes to the seating allocation due to the political balance review:

- Plaid Cymru group gain one seat on each of the following committees at the expense of the Independent Group in each case
 - Communities Scrutiny Committee
 - Care Scrutiny Committee
 - Democratic Services Committee
 - Planning Committee
 - SACRE

2.3.2 The Council is required to adopt the seating allocation in accordance with the political balance as noted in **Appendix A**.

3. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

3.1 The Council is required to identify members to represent the Council on the Police and Crime Panel. The membership of the panel will reflect political balance across North Wales as far as possible. We are aware that the seat allocation on the Panel for Gwynedd, as follows:

- 1 Plaid Cymru Group

- 1 Independent Group

- 3.2 Members nominated to the Police and Crime Panel will be required to have the necessary knowledge and experience in order for the Police and Crime Panel to fulfil its functions effectively, and this should be taken into consideration when nominating representatives. The names will be submitted to the Home Office for approval.
- 3.3 As Councillor John Pughe has joined Plaid Cymru Group and left the Independent Group, a representative of the Independent Group is to be nominated. A nomination will be presented by the leader of the Independent Group to the Full Council Meeting on 07/03/24. The Full Council is asked to nominate the member to the role.

4. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

- 4.1 The Council's Business Group was consulted.

4.2 STATUTORY OFFICERS' OBSERVATIONS:

Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety

Statutory Finance Officer:

Nothing to add from the perspective of financial propriety.

APPENDIX A - ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

A	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Lab/ liberal *	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	12	6	0	18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	12 11	5 6	1	18
Care Scrutiny Committee	12 11	5 6	1	18
Audit and Governance	8	4	0	12

B	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Lab/ liberal	Total
Democratic Services	10 9	4 5	1	15
Planning	10 9	4 5	1	15
Central 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	99	45	4	148

C	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Lab/ liberal	Total
Pensions	4	2	1	7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	7	4	0	11
SACRE	5 4	2 3	0	7

Total seats	115	53	5	173
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* Lib/Lab Group