

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>12 May 2016</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>The Council's Political Balance</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>Annual Review of the Council's Political Balance</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>Allocation of Seats on the Council's Committees</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Geraint Owen, Head of Democratic Services</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has seen much change to its political constitution during 2015/16.
- 1.2 At the Full Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016, the political constitution of the Council was as follows:

Plaid Cymru	39
Independent	20
Llais Gwynedd	8
Labour	5
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Member	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

- 1.3 The political constitution remains unchanged.

## 2. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

- 2.1 To remind members, the four main rules 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;
- (d) 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. This also makes it easier to ensure that rule (c) in paragraph 2.2 above is adhered to.

### **3. CHAIRPERSONSHIPS AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONSHIPS**

- 3.1 In order to respond to the requirements of the Local Government Measure (2011) in terms of allocation of chairpersonships and vice-chairpersonships, the committees are divided into separate blocks.
- 3.2 In accordance with the requirements of sections 66-75 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 it is a requirement to allocate the chairpersonships of scrutiny committees in order to ensure, as far as possible, that political balance was reflected in those chairpersonships, and that the groups that were not represented on the executive were given a fair proportion of the chairpersonships.
- 3.3 The only committees in which the chairs are to be allocated on the basis of political balance are the following Scrutiny Committees. In accordance with the agreement of the Council's Business Group, it is suggested that the chairpersonships are allocated as follows to reflect the custom whereby the vice-chairs step into the chair naturally:

Corporate	Llais Gwynedd
Communities	Plaid Cymru
Services	Independent

- 3.4 In accordance with section 83 of the Measure, the chairperson of the Audit Committee cannot be a member of a political group which is represented on the executive.
- 3.5 There is no statutory or constitutional provision to control the appointments to the vice-chairpersonships or to the chairpersonships of the remaining committees (other than a member of the executive cannot chair the Licensing Committee).
- 3.6 The committees themselves will elect their chairpersons in these cases subject to the procedural rules which limit the term of a chairperson to two years. The committees themselves will also elect the vice-chairs.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Council is asked to:
- adopt the allocation in Appendix A, which is consistent with that which was adopted on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016. In order to approve the recommendations, because the rules are not being fully implemented, the Council will have to approve them unopposed (as carried out in the past).
  - deputise the right to the Head of Democratic Services to make appointments to the committees on the basis of political balance and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups
  - allocate the chairpersonships of scrutiny committees on the basis of political balance, as follows:

Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Llais Gwynedd
Communities Scrutiny Committee	Plaid Cymru
Services Scrutiny Committee	Independent

## APPENDIX A

### SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Corporate	9	5	2	1	1	
Communities	10	5	1	1	1	
Services	10	4	2	1		1
Audit	10	5	2	1		

### 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	4	1	1	1	
Central Licensing	8	5	2			
Employment Appeals	3	1	1	1		1
Appointment of Principal Officers	8	4	1	1	1	

<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>154</b>
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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	1	2		
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			

<b>Total seats</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>194</b>
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