

<b>MEETING OF</b>	<b>THE COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>14 May 2015</b>
<b>TITLE OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>To review the Council's Political Balance</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>Allocation of seats on the Council's Committees</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Councillor Dyfed Edwards</b>
<b>RELEVANT OFFICER</b>	<b>Head of Democratic Services</b>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 As a result of the by-election in ward Cadnant, Caernarfon, the political constitution of the Council is as follows:-

Plaid Cymru	35
Independent	18
Llais Gwynedd	13
Labour	5
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Member	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

## **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 Labour Group gains a seat on the Audit Community at the expense of the Plaid Cymru Group.
- 3.2 It also means that the Labour Group gains a seat on the Language Committee at the expense of the Plaid Cymru Group which loses a seat on the Language Committee.
- 3.3 It also means that the Labour Group gains a seat on the Pensions Committee at the expense of the Plaid Cymru Group which loses a seat on the Pensions Committee.

(See **Appendix A**)

#### **4. 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	8	4	3	1	1	1
Services	9	4	3	1		1
Audit	8	5	3	2		

**OTHER COMMITTEES**

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

<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>154</b>
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	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Pensions	2	2	1	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	3	2	2			

<b>Total seats</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>194</b>
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