

MEETING OF	FULL COUNCIL
DATE	6th October 2016
TITLE OF THE REPORT	THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE
PURPOSE	Update the latest political balance
RECOMMENDATION	Review the political balance as noted below
AUTHOR	Geraint Owen Head of Democratic Services

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During the last Council meeting held on 12th May 2016, the political constitution of the Council was noted as follows:-

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

1.2 Since then, three resignations have been received, as follows:

Chris O'Neal, Marchog Ward, Bangor (Independent Group)
Sian Gwenllian, Felinheli Ward, (Plaid Cymru)
Eurig Wyn, Waunfawr Ward (Plaid Cymru)

1.3 By-elections have been held in the three wards with the results as follows:
Dylan Fernley, Marchog Ward, Bangor (Independent Group)
Gareth Wyn Griffith, Felinheli Ward, (Plaid Cymru)
Edgar Wyn Owen, Waunfawr Ward (Plaid Cymru)

1.4 In addition, two members have changed their political groups:

Councillor Dilwyn Lloyd has become a member of the Independent Group (previously Llais Gwynedd)

Councillor Gwynfor Edwards has become a member of the Green Party in England and Wales, previously a member of the Labour Party. As two or more members are required to form a group, for the purpose of the political balance, the member will be treated as an individual member.

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

Plaid Cymru	39
Independent	21
Llais Gwynedd	7
Labour	4
Liberal Democrats	2
Individual Members	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 proportion 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.

The Council is expected to adhere to the rules as far as practically possible.

- 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 makes it easier to ensure that rule (c) in paragraph 2.2 above is adhered to.

3. NEWIDIADAU I DDYRANIAD Y SEDDAU AR BWYLLGORAU

- 3.1 The change means that an Individual Member gains a seat on the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Local Consultative Joint Committee at the expense of the Labour Group.

- 3.2 Also, the Independent Group gains a seat on the Democratic Services Committee and the Local Consultative Joint Committee at the expense of Llais Gwynedd (See Appendix A

- 3.3 As members are aware, the recommendation does not fully reflect the political balance as it currently stands, as passed at previous Council meetings, based on discussions previously held within the Business Group to try and keep expertise and experience on various committees, in light of the local government elections being a few months away. In line with normal procedure, members must vote for the proposal unopposed.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- 3.4 At the start of the current Council in May, 2012, appointments were made to two outside bodies, the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and the Snowdonia National Park Authority, on the basis of political balance. The Council decided in May, 2012 to appoint on this basis for the Council's lifetime. However, the rules on political balance are relevant and this was reviewed in September 2013 when the Council decided that changes to the figures were so peripheral that there was no real need to change the representation.
- 3.5 As can be seen from Appendix B, the most recent changes to the political balance do mean that there is a basis for a review and that this would lead to a change with the Park Authority. However, since there are only a few months remaining before the end of this Council, it is suggested that we adhere to the allocation made in May, 2012.

4. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to vote on in the proposal without opposition as noted in 3.1, 3.2 and 3.5 above.

APPENDIX A

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Corporate	9	5	2	0	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	5	1	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	

Number of seats	82	42	15	8	4	3	154
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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	3	0	1		1
Special Educational Needs Joint Committee	3	2	1			1
Joint Planning Policy Committee	4 (3 seats and one deputy)	2	1	1		
SACRE	4	2	1			

Total seats	102	53	18	11	5	5	194
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APPENDIX B

Body	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Individual Member
Snowdonia National Park (now)	4	2	2	1	0	0
Change in line with balance	5	2	1	1	0	0
Fire	3	1	1	0	0	0