



COUNCIL – 13TH DECEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To carry out a review of political balance across the authority and the allocation of seats to political groups following a change of membership in accordance with section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report gives the political balance of the authority following a change in membership within the Labour political group

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to review the political balance of the authority and to comply with relevant legislation regarding the governance arrangements for local authorities .
- 3.2 The recommended course of action contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:
- *A more equal Wales*

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Council is required to review its political balance with any change of membership and apply the following principles to that review: -
- (a) Not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) That the majority of seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of people belonging to that group represents a majority of the council's membership;
 - (c) Subject to those earlier rules the number of seats on the ordinary committees of the council allocated to each group bear the same proportion to the total of all seats allocated as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

4.3 The Council has always applied the legislation to mean that so far as is practicable the allocation of seats is the same as the overall percentage that a party has of the total seats of the authority. However it is impossible to obtain a perfect percentage balance on each and every committee and there are therefore two principles:-

- (i) The majority group must have the majority on any committee;
- (ii) That the overall allocation of seats is as close as possible to the overall percentage that a party holds on the council.

4.4 The membership of the current political groupings has been calculated and is detailed below:

Group	Membership	Percentage
Labour	49	67%
Plaid Cymru	18	24.7%
Independents	4	5.5%
Independent Councillor	1	1.4%
Independent Councillor	1	1.4%

4.5 A single Independent Member cannot form a group therefore a percentage of 1.4% would be applied and the individual Member only entitled to a seat on full Council.

4.6 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the political balance and allocation of seats for Committees calculated in accordance with the relevant guidance.

4.7 Members will note that there is no change to the present allocation of seats as detailed below:

- Audit Committee – 12 Members (8-3-1)
- *Appeals Committee – 3 Members (1-1-1)
- Appointments Committee – 9 Members (6-2-1)
- Democratic Services Committee – 16 Members (11-4-1)
- Licensing Committee – 15 Members (10-4-1)
- Planning Committee – 20 Members (14-5-1)
- Education for Life Scrutiny Committee – 16 Members (11-4-1)
- Health, Social Care and Well-Being Scrutiny - 16 Members (11-4-1)
- Policy and Resources/Partnerships Scrutiny Committee – 16 Members (11-4-1)
- Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee – 16 Members (11-4-1)

Total Number of Seats Available	139
Labour	93 (67%)
Plaid Cymru	35 (25%)
Independents Group	10 (8%)

*The Appeals Panel has a Committee Membership of 3 which under the current political balance would be an allocation of 2 seats Labour and 1 Plaid Cymru, but is comprised of equal representation from the 3 main political groups, this increases the percentage share of the main Independents Group.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is

consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that the importance of ensuring that representation on committees reflect the political balance of the local authority thereby involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to review the political balance of the authority and apply that balance to the allocation of seats on committees.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications which have not been included in this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications which have not been included in this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 There are no consultations that have not been included in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Council notes the political balance as outlined in Appendix 1 and that there has been no change to the general allocation of seats to the Committees in accordance with the political balance.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 In order to comply with statutory requirements to keep the political balance of the authority under review and to allocate seats on committees in accordance with that balance.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations made under the Act and Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

Author: Emma Sullivan – Senior Committee Services Officer
Consultees: Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Lisa Lane, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer
Cath Forbes-Thompson Interim, Head of Democratic Services
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services
Councillor D.V. Poole, Leader of Council
Councillor C.P. Mann, Leader of Plaid Cymru Group
Councillor K. Etheridge, Leader of Independents Group

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Political Balance

Caerphilly County Borough Council
 Political balance as at: - 22nd October 2018

APPENDIX 1

Seats	No	%
Total	73	100.0
Labour	49	67
Plaid Cymru	18	24.7
Independent 1	4	5.5
Independent 2	1	1.4
Independent 3	1	1.4

Seats allocated to particular committee sizes

Committee Size	Labour			Plaid Cymru			Independent			Independent 2			Independent 3		
	Calculated	Actual	%	Calculated	Actual	%	Calculated	Actual	%	Calculated	Actual	%	Calculated	Actual	%
2	1.3	1	50.0	0.5	1	50.0	0.1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
3	2.0	2	66.7	0.7	1	33.3	0.2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
4	2.7	3	75.0	1.0	1	25.0	0.2	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
5	3.4	3	60.0	1.2	1	20.0	0.3	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
6	4.0	4	66.7	1.5	2	33.3	0.3	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
7	4.7	5	71.4	1.7	2	28.6	0.4	1	14.3	0.1	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
8	5.4	5	62.5	2.0	2	25.0	0.4	1	12.5	0.1	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
9	6.0	6	66.7	2.2	2	22.2	0.5	1	11.1	0.1	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
10	6.7	7	70.0	2.5	2	20.0	0.5	1	10.0	0.1	0	0.0	0.1	0	0.0
11	7.4	7	63.6	2.7	3	27.3	0.6	1	9.1	0.2	0	0.0	0.2	0	0.0
12	8.1	8	66.7	3.0	3	25.0	0.7	1	8.3	0.2	0	0.0	0.2	0	0.0
13	8.7	9	69.2	3.2	4	30.8	0.7	1	7.7	0.2	0	0.0	0.2	0	0.0
14	9.4	9	64.3	3.5	4	28.6	0.8	1	7.1	0.2	0	0.0	0.2	0	0.0
15	10.1	10	66.7	3.7	4	26.7	0.8	1	6.7	0.2	0	0.0	0.2	0	0.0
16	10.7	11	68.8	3.9	4	25.0	0.9	1	6.3	0.2	0	0.0	0.2	0	0.0
17	11.4	11	64.7	4.2	5	29.4	0.9	1	5.9	0.2	0	0.0	0.2	0	0.0
18	12.1	12	66.7	4.4	5	27.8	1.0	1	5.6	0.2	0	0.0	0.2	0	0.0
19	12.8	13	68.4	4.7	5	26.3	1.0	1	5.3	0.3	0	0.0	0.3	0	0.0
20	13.4	14	70.0	4.9	5	25.0	1.1	1	5.0	0.3	0	0.0	0.3	0	0.0
73	49.0	49	67.1	18.0	18	24.7	4.0	4	5.5	1.0	1	1.4	1.0	1	1.4
AVERAGE %:			66.3			27.7			6.0			0.1			0.1