



ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL – 19TH MAY 2022

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

--

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 in accordance with section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report outlines the political balance of the authority.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Council notes the political balance as outlined in Appendix 1 and the general allocation of seats to the Committees in accordance with the political balance.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 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.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Sections 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the 1989 Act) sets out requirements to ensure there is political balance on the committees set out in this report.
- 5.2 The Council is required to review the political balance of its Committees and determine the allocation in accordance with the principles set out in Section 15 of the

1989 Act namely:-

- (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.
- (d) Subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

5.3 In applying the political balance rules under Section 15 the Council has so far as is practicable allocated the seats according to 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 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.

5.4 The composition of the Council is as follows

Groups	Number of Councillors	Political Balance
Labour	45	65%
Plaid Cymru	18	26%
Independents	6	9%

5.5 Based on the composition of the Council the proportional allocation of seats on politically balanced Committees is outlined below.

<u>Committees</u>	<u>Available Seats</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Plaid Cymru</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Appeals*	3	1	1	1*
Appointments	9	6	2	1
Licensing	15	10	4	1
Planning	16	11	4	1
Democratic Services	16	11	4	1
Governance & Audit**	8	6	2	0
** (4 lay members)				
Investigating & Disciplinary	7	5	2	0

*The Appeals Panel has a Committee Membership of 3 which under the current political balance calculation would be an allocation of 2 -1 however the Council previously endorsed equal representation from the 3 main political groups and so membership was 1-1-1. Council may wish to continue with the 1-1-1 allocation.

Scrutiny Committees

Education	16	11	4	1
Social Services	16	11	4	1
Policy & Resources/ Partnerships	16	11	4	1
Environment & Sustainability	16	11	4	1
Housing & Regeneration	16	11	4	1

5.6 Conclusion

Members are asked to consider and note the political balance in accordance with the detail contained in this report.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions contained in this report as 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. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The report is based on statutory requirements and is for noting only so there is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications arising from this report

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The views of the consultees have been incorporated into this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations made under the Act and Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.
Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990

Author: Lisa Lane Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Consultees: Robert Tranter Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Christina Harry Chief Executive
Richard (Ed) Edmunds Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services

Appendix 1 Political Balance