

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETING 14TH FEBRUARY 2018
REVIEW OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND THE
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE UPON THEM**

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Andrew James resigned from the Independent Group on the 10th January 2018 and notified the Deputy Chief Executive that he wished to join the Plaid Cymru Group with effect from that date. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, as amended, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Council is required to appoint members to serve on its committees and to allocate those seats so that they reflect the overall political composition of the Council, as far as possible.

2. POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

2.1. Composition of Committees and Panels of the Council

The membership of the political groups as at 11th January 2018 is as follows:

| Political Group | Number of Members | %of Council Membership |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Plaid Cymru | 37 | 50 |
| Labour | 22 | 29.73 |
| Independent | 14 | 18.92 |
| Unaffiliated | 1 | 1.35 |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | <i>74</i> | <i>100%</i> |

Council, at its meeting held on the 24th May 2017, decided that the total number of seats available on Committees is 168 and these seats must be distributed amongst the political groups and unaffiliated member on a politically balanced basis with the seats on committees also being allocated to reflect, as far as possible, the political balance of the Council as a whole.

The Council's democratic structure comprises:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Executive Board | 10 members |
| 5 X Scrutiny Committees | 68 Members (Non Executive Board Members) |
| Regulatory and other Committees | 100 Members |

Note:

- Only non Executive Members (64) may serve on the Scrutiny Committees.
- The members serving on the Standards Committee do not need to reflect the political balance of the Council as a whole but they have been included within the above figures.
- It is not a statutory requirement to ensure that the Audit Committee is politically balanced, however, the Authority has chosen to include the Audit Committee in its calculations. Only one member of the Executive Board can serve on the Audit Committee and this must not be the Leader of the Council.
- Only one member of the Executive Board can serve on the Democratic Services Committee and this must not be the Leader of the Council.

TABLE 1

| ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON REGULATORY, SCRUTINY AND OTHER COMMITTEES AND THE PENSION COMMITTEE | % COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP | 168 |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|
| Plaid Cymru | 50 | 84 |
| Labour | 29.73 | 50 |
| Independent | 18.92 | 32 |
| Unaffiliated Member | 1.35 | 2 |
| TOTAL NO OF SEATS | 100% | 168 |

Note:

If the allocation of seats on committees is not made on a politically balanced basis then the decision by Council to do this must be unanimous “without any member of the Authority or committee voting against them.” S17(b) of the Act.

2.2. Allocation of Seats

In order to reflect Councillor James' resignation from the Independent Group the Independent Group's representation on Committees will be reduced by 2 seats from 34 to 32, and the Plaid Cymru Group allocation will rise from 82 to 84. There is no change to the Labour Group or Unaffiliated Member allocation. To accommodate this change in the political composition of the Council the Independent Group must relinquish one Scrutiny Committee and one Regulatory/other seat to the Plaid Cymru Group.

It is suggested that the composition of Committees within the democratic decision making structure be amended as shown in Tables 2 and 3 below, with the seats allocated, to reflect as far as possible, the political balance of the Council as a whole. Resultant membership changes put forward by the Independent and Plaid Cymru Groups are included within this report.

TABLE 2a - Scrutiny Committees (68 seats)

| 5 SCRUTINY COMMITTEES | % | | |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------------|---|
| Political Group | | Number of Seats | NEW Allocation of seats on scrutiny Committees |
| | | 68 | |
| Plaid Cymru | 50 | 34 (+1) | 1 X 8 SEATS; 2 X 7 SEATS & 2 X 6 SEATS |
| Labour | 30 | 20 (20.21) | 5 X 4 SEATS |
| Independent | 19 | 13 (12.86) (-1) | 3 X 3 SEATS & 2 X 2 SEATS |
| Unaffiliated Member | 1% | 1 (0.92) | 1 SEAT |
| | | 68 | |

Following discussion, the Independent Group has agreed to relinquish one seat on the Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee (seat previously held by Councillor Andrew James) and the Plaid Cymru Group have nominated Councillor Andrew James to fill their additional seat on this Committee.

It is therefore suggested that the allocation of elected member seats on Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee should be amended as follows:

Plaid Cymru (8) Labour (4) Independent (2) Unaffiliated (0)

TABLE 2B

| SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | TOTAL NO OF SEATS | PLAID CYMRU GROUP | LABOUR GROUP | INDEPENDENT GROUP | UNAFF |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Community | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Education & Children | 14 + 5 (co-opted) | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Environmental & Public Protection | 14 | 8 (+1) | 4 | 2 (-1) | 0 |
| Policy & Resources | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Social Care & Health | 14 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 68 | 34 (+1) | 20 | 13 (-1) | 1 |

TABLE 3 - REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES (100 SEATS)

Following discussion, the Independent Group has agreed to relinquish one seat on the Standards Committee (currently held by Councillor S.M. Allen). It therefore suggested that the allocation of elected member seats on this Committee should be amended as follows:

Plaid Cymru (2) Labour (1) Independent (0) Unaffiliated (0)

The Plaid Cymru Group have nominated Councillor Jeanette Gilasbey to fill the additional seat on the Standards Committee.

| COMMITTEE/ PANEL | TOTAL NO OF SEATS | PLAID CYMRU GROUP | LABOUR GROUP | INDEPENDENT GROUP | UNAFFILIATED |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Appeals | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Appointments Directors (Leader + 6 EBM's + 9 non Executive members) | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Appointments Heads of Service (4 EBM's + 6 non Executive members) | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Audit | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|--|------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| Democratic Services | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Housing Review Panel +1 sub per group | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Dyfed Pension Fund Committee + 1 permanent sub | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Licensing | 14 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| Members' Appointments | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Planning | 20 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Standards (+ 4 Independent & 1 Community Rep) | 3 | 2 (+1) | 1 | 0 (-1) | 0 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 50 (+1) | 30 | 19 (-1) | 1 |

3. POLITICAL BALANCE AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS TO CHAIR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Part 6 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 deals sets out the requirements for the appointment of Persons to Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Measure states that in respect of Councils with two or more political groups and multiple scrutiny committees the political groups represented in the Executive can only appoint as many chairs as are proportionate to their combined share of the Council's overall membership, **rounding down** if this does not equal a whole number of chairs. It is for the Executive groups together to decide upon the allocation of their entitlement to chairs between them. The rest of the Scrutiny Chairs are the "property" of those groups not represented in the Executive. If there is only one such group, that group is entitled to all the remaining Chairs.

As Councillor James has moved between two groups that form the Executive, there is **no change to the allocation for the 5 Scrutiny Chairs:**

Plaid Cymru and Independent Executive 68.92% = 3.45 - rounded down to 3

Labour 29.73% = 1.48 – rounded up to 2