

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
ANNUAL MEETING 25TH MAY 2022
REVIEW OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND THE
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE UPON THEM

1. INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Elections were held on Thursday 5th May 2022 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 Council is required to consider members to serve on its committees and to allocate those seats so that they reflect the overall political composition of the Council.

Following a review of electoral arrangements of the County of Carmarthenshire the number of Councillors on the Authority was increased to 75 from the date of the Local Government Elections in May 2022.

2. POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

2.1. Composition of Committees and Panels of the Council

The membership of the recently constituted political groups and unaffiliated members is as follows :-

Political Group	Number of Members	% of Council Membership
Plaid Cymru	38	50.7
Labour	23	30.7
Independent	8	10.7
Unaffiliated	6	8
TOTAL	75	100.1

The previous Council's democratic structure comprised :

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

Note:

- *Members of the Executive (Cabinet) cannot serve on Scrutiny Committees, the remaining 65 members must therefore be allocated the all Scrutiny seats.*
- *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 Governance & Audit Committee is politically balanced however the Authority has chosen to include the Governance & Audit Committee in its calculations Only one member of the Cabinet can serve on the Governance & Audit Committee and this must not be the Leader of the Council.*
- *Only one member of the Cabinet can serve on the Democratic Services Committee and this must not be the Leader of the Council.*

2.2. Allocation of Seats

The previous Council allocated a total of 168 seats on Committees. All seats are required to be distributed 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.

In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, there is a requirement to ensure proportionality across political groups, this does not extend to members who have chosen to be unaffiliated. The Authority has however historically assigned any remaining unallocated seats to the unaffiliated members. Due to an anomaly with the numbers, it is suggested that the number of Scrutiny seats be reduced by 1 to 67 and the number of regulatory seats be increased to 101, as it results in a more equitable proportion of seats. The overall number of seats for allocation remains unchanged.

TABLE 1

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON REGULATORY, SCRUTINY AND OTHER COMMITTEES AND THE PENSION COMMITTEE	% COUNCIL MEMBER-SHIP	168
Plaid Cymru	50.7	85 (85.12)
Labour	30.7	52 (51.52)
Independent	10.7	18 (17.92)
Unaffiliated	8	13 (13.44)
TOTAL	100.1	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.

TABLE 2a - Scrutiny Committees (67 seats)

5 SCRUTINY COMMITTEES	%		
Political Group		Number of Scrutiny Seats	Allocation of seats on Scrutiny Committees
		67	
Plaid Cymru		34 (33.9)	4 X 7 SEATS & 1 X 6 SEATS
Labour		21 (20.5)	1 X 5 SEATS & 4 X 4 SEATS
Independent		7 (7.1)	2 X 2 SEATS & 3 X 1 SEATS
Unaffiliated		5 (5.4)	5 X 1 SEAT
		67	

TABLE 2B

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	TOTAL NO OF SEATS	PLAID CYMRU GROUP	LABOUR GROUP	IND GROUP	UNAFF
Community & Regeneration	13	7	4	1	1
Education & Children	14 + 5 (co-opted)	7	4	2	1
Environmental & Public Protection	13	6	5	1	1
Policy & Resources	13	7	4	1	1
Social Care & Health	14	7	4	2	1
Total	67	34	21	7	5

TABLE 3 - REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES (101 SEATS)

In order to reflect the political balance of the Council as a whole it is suggested that the allocation of seats on the remaining Committees should be as follows, however it will be appreciated that because of the different sizes of committees it makes it impossible for every committee to exactly reflect the political balance of the Council as a whole. The composition of committees has therefore been drawn up to mirror as closely as possible the political balance of the Council.

COMMITTEE/ PANEL	TOTAL NO OF SEATS	PLAID CYMRU GROUP	LABOUR GROUP	IND GROUP	UNAFFILIATED MEMBERS
Appeals	6	3	2	1	0
Appointments Directors (Leader + 6 EBM's + 9 non executive members)	16	8	5	2	1
Appointments Heads of Service (4 EBM's + 6 non- executive members)	10	5	3	1	1
Democratic Services	5	2	2	1	0
Dyfed Pension Fund Committee + 1 permanent sub	3	2	1	0	0
Governance & Audit	8	4	3	1	0
Housing Review Panel +1 sub per group	8	3	2	1	2
Licensing	14	8	4	1	1
Members' Appointments	7	3	2	1	1

Planning	21	11	6	2	2
Standards	3	2	1	0	0
TOTAL	101	51 (51.2)	31 (31.0)	11 (10.8)	8 (8.1)

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

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

The Measure states that in respect of Council's 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.

Having taken into account the political composition of the new Council, **the allocation for the 5 Scrutiny Chairs is as follows**

Plaid Cymru and Independent Executive 61.4 = 3.07 - rounded down to **3**.

Labour 30.7% = 1.54 rounded to the nearest whole number. = **2**

There is no requirement to include Unaffiliated Members in this calculation