

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETING 8TH NOVEMBER 2023
REVIEW OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND THE
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE UPON THEM**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chief Executive received notice from the Leader of the Labour Group on the 1st September 2023 that Councillor John James was no longer to be treated as a member of the Labour Group. On the 12th October 2023 Councillor Emyr Rees provided notice to the Chief Executive that he had resigned from the Labour Group. Both Cllr James and Rees have decided to remain unaffiliated. 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 13th October 2023 is as follows :-

Political Group	Number of Members	% of Council Membership
Plaid Cymru	38	50.7
Labour	21	28
Independent	11	14.7
Unaffiliated	5	6.7
TOTAL	75	100.1

The Council democratic structure currently comprises:

Cabinet	10 members
5 X Scrutiny Committees	67 Members (Non Executive Members)
Regulatory and other Committees	101 Members

The Council revoked the decision to use introductory tenancies in November 2022 and any outstanding appeals to the Housing Review Panel have now been completed. As a result the Housing Review Panel (8 seats) has been removed from the composition of Committees and the number of overall committee seats for allocation is therefore reduced. As a result the following revised democratic structure is recommended for approval:-

Cabinet	10 members
5 X Scrutiny Committees	67 Members (Non Executive Members)
Regulatory and other Committees	93 Members
Total allocation	160

Note:

- *Members of the Executive (Cabinet) cannot serve on Scrutiny Committees, the remaining 65 members must therefore be allocated all the 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

In order to reflect the new arrangements, the Labour Group will need to relinquish 2 Scrutiny and 3 regulatory seats to the Unaffiliated members. Due to the reduction in the number of overall seats Plaid Cymru will also need to relinquish 1 regulatory seat to the Unaffiliated members.

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.

The resultant membership changes are included within this report.

TABLE 1

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON REGULATORY, SCRUTINY AND OTHER COMMITTEES AND THE PENSION COMMITTEE	%	160
Plaid Cymru	50.7	81
Labour	28	45
Independent	14.7	24
Unaffiliated	6.7	10*
TOTAL	100	160

* Rounded down

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.

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, rounding down the unaffiliated seats where necessary if there is an anomaly in the figures.

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	4 X 7 SEATS & 1 X 6 SEATS
Labour	19	4 X 4 SEATS & 1 X 3 SEATS
Independent	10	5 X 2 SEATS
Unaffiliated	4	4 X 1 SEAT
	67	

TABLE 2B

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	TOTAL NO OF SEATS	PLAID CYMRU GROUP	LABOUR GROUP	IND GROUP	UN AFF
Communities Homes and Regeneration	13	7	4	2	0
Education, Young People and the Welsh Language	14 + 5 (co-opted)	7	4	2	1
Place, Sustainability and Climate Change	13	6	4 (5)	2	1 (0)
Corporate Performance & Resources	13	7	3 (4)	2	1 (0)
Health and Social Services	14	7	4	2	1
Total	67	34	19	10	4

*previous allocation in brackets

Following discussion, the following seats will be transferred from the Labour Group to the Unaffiliated Members:-

- 1 Vacant Labour Seat on the Corporate Performance & Resources Scrutiny Committee.
 - 1 x Vacant Labour Seat on the Place, Sustainability & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee .
- These seats will remain vacant until nominations are received from the unaffiliated members.

TABLE 3 - REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES (93 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	INDEPENDENT GROUP	UNAFFILIATED MEMBERS
Appeals	6	2 (3)	2	1	1 (0)
Appointments Directors (Leader + 6 CM's + 9 non executive members)	16	8	5	3	0
Appointments Heads of Service (4 CM's + 6 non-executive members)	10	5	3	2	0
Democratic Services	5	2	1 (2)	1	1 (0)
Dyfed Pension Fund Committee + 1 permanent sub	3	2	1	0	0
Governance & Audit	8	4	2 (3)	1	1 (0)
Licensing	14	8	4	2	0
Members' Appointments	7	3	2	1	1
Planning	21	11	5 (6)	3	2 (1)
Standards	3	2	1	0	0
<i>New total of regulatory seats</i>	93	47	26	14	6

*previous figures in brackets

Following discussion, the following seat will be transferred to the Unaffiliated Members:-

- 1 Plaid Cymru Seat on the Appeal Committee (seat held by Councillor Denise Owen)
- 1 Vacant Labour Seat on Governance & Audit Committee.
- 1 Vacant Labour Seat on the Democratic Services Committee
- 1 Vacant Labour Seat on the Planning Committee.

Councillor Michael Cranham has been nominated to take the seat on the Democratic Services Committee, all other seats will remain vacant until nominations are received from the unaffiliated members.

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 revised political composition, **the allocation for the 5 Scrutiny Chairs is as follows**

Plaid Cymru and Independent Executive 65.4 = 3.27 - rounded down to **3**.

Labour 28 = 1.4 rounded to the nearest whole number. = 1. Only 1 opposition group so rounded up to **2**