

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETING 10TH JULY 2024
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 Councillor Dai Nicholas on Monday 13th May 2024 that he was no longer wished to be treated as a member of the Plaid Cymru Group. On the 16th May 2024 Cllr Nicholas joined the Independent Group. 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 10th July 2024 is as follows :-

Political Group	Number of Members	% of Council Membership
Plaid Cymru	37	49.3
Labour	21	28
Independent	12	16
Unaffiliated	5	6.7
TOTAL	75	100

The Council democratic structure currently comprises:

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 Plaid Cymru Group will need to relinquish 1 Scrutiny and 1 regulatory seat to the Independent 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.

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	49.3	79
Labour	28	45
Independent	16	26
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	33 34	3 X 7 SEATS & 2 X 6 SEATS
Labour	19	4 X 4 SEATS & 1 X 3 SEATS
Independent	11 10	1 X 3 SEATS AND 4 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	2	1
Corporate Performance & Resources	13	6 (7)	3	3 (2)	1
Health and Social Services	14	7	4	2	1
Total	67	33 (34)	19	11 (10)	4

*previous allocation in brackets

Following discussion, the following seats will be transferred from the Plaid Cymru Group to the Independent Group :-

- 1 Seat on the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee (the seat formally held by Cllr Dai Nicholas).

The Independent Group will put forward a nomination to fill this seat at a later date.

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	2	1	1
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	1	1
Dyfed Pension Fund Committee + 1 permanent sub	3	2	1	0	0
Governance & Audit	8	4	2	1	1
Licensing	14	8	4	2	0
Members' Appointments	7	3	2	1	1
Planning	21	10 (11)	5	4 (3)	2
Standards	3	2	1	0	0
	93	46 (47)	26	15 (14)	6

*previous figures in brackets

Following discussion, the following seat will be transferred from the Plaid Cymru Group to the Independent Group:-

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- 1 Plaid Cymru Seat on the Planning Committee (seat held by Councillor Denise Owen.
(The Independent Group will put forward a nomination to fill this seat at a later date.)

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**