

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL MEETING 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024  
REVIEW OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND THE  
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE UPON THEM**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chief Executive has received notice from Councillor Rob James (5<sup>th</sup> July 2024) and Councillor Anthony Leyshon (11<sup>th</sup> August 2024) that they no longer wish to be treated as members of the Labour Group and that they would now sit as Unaffiliated Members. 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 29<sup>th</sup> August is as follows :-

<u>Political Group</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>% of Council Membership</u>
Plaid Cymru	37	49.33
Labour	19	25.33
Independent	12	16
Unaffiliated	7	9.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>99.99</b>

**The Council democratic structure currently comprises:**

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

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 2 regulatory seats 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**

<b>ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON REGULATORY, SCRUTINY AND OTHER COMMITTEES AND THE PENSION COMMITTEE</b>	<b>160</b>
Plaid Cymru	79
Labour	<b>41-45</b>
Independent	26
Unaffiliated	<b>14* -10*</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160</b>

\* 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)**

<b>5 SCRUTINY COMMITTEES</b>		
<b>Political Group</b>	<b>Number of Scrutiny Seats</b>	<b>Allocation of seats on Scrutiny Committees</b>
	<b>67</b>	
Plaid Cymru	<b>33</b>	3 X 7 SEATS & 2 X 6 SEATS
Labour	<b>17</b> <del>19</del>	3 X 4 SEATS & 1 X 3 SEATS AND 1 X 2 SEATS
Independent	<b>11-</b>	1 X 3 SEATS AND 4 X 2 SEATS
Unaffiliated	<b>6</b> <del>4</del>	4 X 1 SEAT AND 1 X 2 SEATS
	<b>67</b>	

**TABLE 2B**

<b>SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>TOTAL NO OF SEATS</b>	<b>PLAID CYMRU GROUP</b>	<b>LABOUR GROUP</b>	<b>IND GROUP</b>	<b>UN AFF</b>
<b>Communities Homes and Regeneration</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b> (4)	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b> (-0)
<b>Education, Young People and the Welsh Language</b>	<b>14</b> + 5 (co-opted)	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Place, Sustainability and Climate Change</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Corporate Performance &amp; Resources</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b> (3)	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b> (1)
<b>Health and Social Services</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17</b> (19)	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b> (4)

previous allocation in brackets

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

- 1 Seat on the Communities Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (the seat formally held by Cllr Anthony Leyshon). Cllr Sean Rees has been nominated to fill this seat .
- 1 Seat on the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee (the seat held by Councillor Deryk Cundy). The unaffiliated members have not put forward a nomination to fill this seat at this stage.

**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.

<b>COMMITTEE/ PANEL</b>	<b>TOTAL NO OF SEATS</b>	<b>PLAID CYMRU GROUP</b>	<b>LABOUR GROUP</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT GROUP</b>	<b>UNAFFILIATED MEMBERS</b>
Appeals	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Appointments Directors (Leader + 6 CM's + 9 non executive members)	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
Appointments Heads of Service (4 CM's + 6 non-executive members)	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Democratic Services	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Dyfed Pension Fund Committee + 1 permanent sub	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Governance & Audit	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Licensing	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Members' Appointments	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1 (2)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2 (1)</b>
Planning	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4 (5)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3 (2)</b>
Standards	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>93</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>24 (26)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8* (6)</b>

previous figures in brackets

\*rounded down.

Following discussion, the following seats will be transferred from the Labour Group to the unaffiliated members:-

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- Labour Group Seat on the Member Appointments Committee (seat held by Councillor Deryk Cundy). Cllr Michael Cranham has been nominated to fill this seat .
- Labour Group Seat on the Planning Committee (seat previously held by Councillor Anthony Leyshon). The unaffiliated members have not put forward a nomination to fill this seat at this stage.

### 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** 65.33% = 3.27 - rounded down to **3**.

**Labour** 25.33 = 1.27 rounded to the nearest whole number. = 1. Only 1 opposition group so rounded up to **2**