

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETING 10TH APRIL 2019
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 Councillors Sharen Davies, Jeff Edmunds, Eryl Morgan, Shahana Najmi and Louvain Roberts on the 6th March 2019 that they had resigned from the Labour Group. On the 19th March 2019 notification was received by the Chief Executive that the 5 members had formed a new group to be known as the New 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 19th March 2019 is as follows :-

Political Group	Number of Members	%of Council Membership
Plaid Cymru	37	50
Labour	18 (-5)	24.32 31.08
Independent	13	17.57
NEW INDEPENDENT GROUP	5	6.76
Unaffiliated	1	1.35
TOTAL	74	100%

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 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 MEMBER-SHIP	168
Plaid Cymru	50	84
Labour	24.32	41 (-11) (40.86) 52
Independent	17.57	30
NEW INDEPENDENT GROUP	6.76	11 (11.35)
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 the new arrangements the Labour Group's representation on Committees will be reduced by 11 seats from 52 to 41, and the New Independent Group will be entitled to an allocation of 11 seats. There is no change to the Plaid Cymru, Independent or Unaffiliated member allocation.

To accommodate this change in the political composition of the Council the Labour Group must relinquish 4 Scrutiny Committee and 7 regulatory/other seats to the New Independent Group.

Based on the new composition of the groups the calculation for the distribution of the 68 Scrutiny seats produces an anomaly, which cannot be rectified if rounding up or down by (+/- 1 seat)

In order to ensure that the seats on committees are allocated to reflect, as far as possible, the political balance of the Council **as a whole** there will be a need to round down the no of Scrutiny Seats allocated to the New Independent Group* to reflect the no. of seats which are to be relinquished by the Labour 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 Labour & New Independent Group are included within this report.

TABLE 2a - Scrutiny Committees (68 seats)

5 SCRUTINY COMMITTEES		
Political Group	Number of Seats 68	NEW Allocation of seats on scrutiny Committees
Plaid Cymru	34	1 X 8 SEATS; 2 X 7 SEATS & 2 X 6 SEATS
Labour	17 (-4) (16.54) 21-	2 X 4 SEATS AND 3 X 3 SEATS
Independent	12	2 X 3 SEATS & 3 X 2 SEATS
New Independent	4* (4.59)	4 X 1 SEAT
Unaffiliated Member	1	1 SEAT
	68	

It therefore suggested that the allocation of elected member seats on the Scrutiny Committees should be amended as follows:-

TABLE 2B

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	TOTAL NO OF SEATS	PLAID CYMRU GROUP	LABOUR GROUP	IND GROUP	NEW IND GROUP	UNAFF
Community	13	6	4	3	0	0
Education & Children	14 + 5 (co-opted)	7	3 (-1)	2	1	1
Environmental & Public Protection	14	8	3 (-1)	2	1	0
Policy & Resources	13	6	3 (-1)	3	1	0
Social Care & Health	14	7	4 (-1)	2	1	0
Total	68	34	17	12	4	1

Following discussion, the Labour Group has agreed to relinquish the following seats:-

1 x Seat on the Education & Children Services Scrutiny Committee (seat previously held by Councillor Shahana Najmi)

1 x Seat on the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee (seat held by Councillor Amanda Fox)

1 x Seat on the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee (seat held by Councillor Fozia Akhtar)

1 x Seat on the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee (seat previously held by Councillor Eryl Morgan)

The New Independent Group have nominated the following members to fill their Scrutiny Seats:-

Councillor Shahana Najmi on the Education & Children Services Scrutiny Committee
 Councillor Eryl Morgan on the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee
 Councillor Jeff Edmunds on the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee
 Councillor Louvain Roberts on the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee

TABLE 3 - REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES (100 SEATS)

It therefore suggested that the allocation of elected member seats on the Regulatory/Other Committees should be amended as follows:-

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

Members' Appointments	7	4	1 (-1)	1	1	0
Planning	20	10	4 (-2)	4	2*	0
Standards (+ 4 Independent & 1 Community Rep)	3	2	1	0		0
TOTAL	100	50	24 (24.32) (-7) 31	18	7 (6.76)	1

Following discussion, the Labour Group has agreed to relinquish the following seats:-

- 1 x Seat on the Appeals Committee (seat previously held by Councillor Eryl Morgan)
- 1 x Seat on the Appointments Committee B (seat held by Councillor Colin Evans)
- 1 x Seat on the Audit Committee (seat held by Councillor Deryk Cundy)
- 1 x Seat on the Housing Review Panel (seat previously held by Councillor Shahana Najmi)
- 1 x Seat on the Member Appointments Committee (seat held by Councillor Andre McPherson)
- 2 x Seats on the Planning Committee (Seats held by Councillors Ken Lloyd and John Prosser)

The new Independent Group have nominated the following members to fill their vacant Seats

- Councillor Eryl Morgan on the Appeals Committee
- Councillor Sharen Davies on the Appointments Committee B
- Councillor Louvain Roberts on the Audit Committee
- Councillor Louvain Roberts on the Housing Review Panel
- Councillor Jeff Edmunds on the Member Appointments Committee

*The New Independent Group have advised that they will not be taking up their allocation of the 2 Planning Seats, therefore these seats will remain vacant until the Group advise otherwise.

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, if there is more than one non-executive group, each gets a share of the chairs in proportion to their membership, rounding to the nearest whole number including zero.

Proposed new allocation of the 5 Scrutiny Chairs:-

Plaid Cymru and Independent Executive 67.57% = **3**
(3.37 - rounded down)

Labour 24.32% = **1**
(1.21% rounded to nearest whole number)

New Independent Group 6.76% = **0**
(0.34 – rounded to nearest whole number)

As there is one unallocated Chair following the above calculation, then, under the Measure, the Chair is to be appointed by the members of that Committee.

The Labour Group, who were previously allocated 2 Chairs, have notified the Chief Executive that they will relinquish the Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee, and arrangements will be made for the appointment of Community Scrutiny Chair to be included on the agenda of the next Community Scrutiny Committee meeting.