

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETING 14TH SEPTEMBER 2022
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 and Louvain Roberts on the 8th July and Councillor , Jason Hart on the 26th July that they had joined the Independent Group of the Authority. 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 27th July 2022 is as follows :-

Political Group	Number of Members	% of Council Membership
Plaid Cymru	38	50.7
Labour	23	30.7
Independent	11	14.7
Unaffiliated	3	4
TOTAL	75	100.1

The Council democratic structure comprises:

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

In order to reflect the new arrangements, the unaffiliated members will relinquish 7 seats to the Independent Group. There is no change to the Plaid Cymru, or Labour Group allocations.

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. *As the requirement to ensure proportionality across political groups does not extend to members who have chosen to be unaffiliated, the number of seats allocated to the unaffiliated members will automatically be rounded down if there is an anomaly in the figures.*

The resultant membership changes are included within this report.

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	14.7	25 (24.64) (18)
Unaffiliated	4	6* (6.72) (13)
TOTAL	100.1	168

* 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 (33.9)	4 X 7 SEATS & 1 X 6 SEATS
Labour	21 (20.5)	1 X 5 SEATS & 4 X 4 SEATS
Independent	10 (9.8) (7)	5 X 2 SEATS
Unaffiliated	2* (2.7) (5)	2 X 1 SEAT
	67	

* rounded down

TABLE 2B

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	TOTAL NO OF SEATS	PLAID CYMRU GROUP	LABOUR GROUP	IND GROUP	UN AFF
Community & Regeneration	13	7	4	2 (1)	0 (1)
Education & Children	14 + 5 (co-opted)	7	4	2	1
Environmental & Public Protection	13	6	5	2 (1)	0 (1)
Policy & Resources	13	7	4	2 (1)	0 (1)
Social Care & Health	14	7	4	2	1
Total	67	34	21	10	2*

* previous figures in brackets

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

- 1 x Seat on the Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – the seat previously held by Councillor Jason Hart (Formerly unaffiliated) will be taken by Councillor Anthony Davies (Independent Group)
- 1 x Seat on the Environmental and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee – the seat held by Councillor Michael Cranham (Unaffiliated) will be taken by Councillor Sharen Davies (Independent Group)
- 1 x Seat on the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – the seat held by Councillor John Jenkins (Unaffiliated) will be taken by Councillor Jason Hart (Independent Group)

The Independent Group has also nominated Councillor Louvain Roberts to fill its existing vacant seat on the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee.

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	INDEPENDENT GROUP	UNAFFILIATED MEMBERS
Appeals	6	3	2	1	0
Appointments Directors (Leader + 6 CM's + 9 non executive members)	16	8	5	3 ²	0 ¹
Appointments Heads of Service (4 CM's + 6 non-executive members)	10	5	3	2 ¹	0 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	2 ¹	0 ¹
Members' Appointments	7	3	2	1	1
Planning	21	11	6	3 ²	1 ²
Standards	3	2	1	0	0
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>15</i> ^{(11)}	<i>4</i> ^{(8)}

* previous figures in brackets

Following discussion, the following seats will be transferred to the Independent Group -

1 x Seat on Appointments Committee A – the seat held by Councillor Sharen Davies (Formerly unaffiliated) will be taken by Councillor Hugh Shepardson (Independent Group)

1 x Seat on Appointments Committee B – the seat held by Councillor Jason Hart (Formerly unaffiliated) will be taken by Councillor Hugh Shepardson (Independent Group)

1 x Seat on the Licensing Committee – the seat held by Councillor Michael Cranham (Unaffiliated) will be taken by Councillor Louvain Roberts (Independent Group)

1 x Seat on the Planning Committee – a vacant seat held by unaffiliated members will transfer to the Independent Group with the nominated Independent Group member to be notified 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 30.7% = 1.54 rounded to the nearest whole number. = **2**

There is no requirement to include Unaffiliated Members in this calculation