



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019 - 2020

COUNCIL

19TH JUNE 2019

JOINT REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES

THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL, APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- (i) To advise Members of the outcome of the review of the Political Balance of the Council following the formation of the Independent Group and consequential effect on the appointment of Scrutiny and Democratic Services Committee Chairs; and
- (ii) To review the allocation of Notices of Motion.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be adopted;
- 2.2 That the Service Director – Democratic Services & Communications be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject to any subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees being referred to Council;
- 2.3 To note that Members of the Cabinet are not eligible for appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Committees;
- 2.4 To note that at least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions;
- 2.5 To determine which Scrutiny Committee Chairs are to be allocated to the Plaid Cymru and Alliance Groups;
- 2.6 To seek nominations from the appropriate political groups for the appointment of Chairs to the following Scrutiny Committees:

- Overview and Scrutiny;
- Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee;
- Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee;
- Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee; and
- Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

- 2.7 To appoint the Vice-Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees;
- 2.8 To appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Democratic Services Committee subject to the conditions laid down in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011; and
- 2.9 To seek Council's instruction as to whether the allocation of Notices of Motion for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019 – 2020 is to be amended.

3. POLITICAL BALANCE

- 3.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 makes provisions for securing the political balance on certain relevant authorities, committees and bodies.
- 3.2 I have received notification of the formation of a new political group known as the Independent Group consisting of three previously unallocated Members namely Councillors Kate Libby Jones, Mike Diamond and Will Jones. This necessitates a review of the political balance of the Council.
- 3.3 Following the review of the political balance of the Council I would inform Members that the appointment of the available seats is as set out in Tables A, B and C of the Appendix to this report.
- 3.4 Appointments to the Committees will be made following notification given to me by each political group as to their nominations for appointments to the respective Committees. It has been previous practice for power to be delegated to the Proper Officer to accept and make the appointments notified to me by the political groups. However, in the case of subsequent requests for amendments to the membership of Committees they should be the subject of a report to full Council.
- 3.5 Members are requested to note that:
- A Member of the Cabinet may not be a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any of the Scrutiny Committees

- At least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions.

4. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

4.1 The appointment of the persons to Chair the Council's Scrutiny Committees must comply with the requirements set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 'Measure').

4.2 Members will note from Section 3 of this report that due to the formation of the Independent Group the Conservative Group no longer have a seat on the Council's Scrutiny Committees. In light of this and that there are two or more political groups with multiple Scrutiny Committees, the application of the procedures set out in Section 70 of the Measure results in the allocation set out below:

Labour Group – 3
Plaid Cymru Group – 1
Alliance Group – 1
Independent Group - 0
Conservative Group – 0

4.3 As a result of the changes the Plaid Cymru Group loses its entitlement to one of the Scrutiny Chair positions it previously had and the Alliance Group gains a Scrutiny Chair position.

4.4 Council must therefore determine which of the following Scrutiny Committees are to be chaired by the Labour, Plaid Cymru and Alliance Groups:

- Overview and Scrutiny;
- Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee;
- Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee;
- Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee; and
- Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

4.5 Nominations can then be received from appropriate Group Officers to fill those Scrutiny Chair posts.

4.6 The Council will also need to appoint the Vice-Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR

5.1 Members will note from Section 3 of this report that due to the formation of the Independent Group the Conservative Group no longer have a seat on the Democratic Services Committee.

- 5.2 In light of this and as Councillor Joel James (Conservative) was appointed as Chair of the Committee at the AGM in May the Council must appoint a new Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and that Chair must not be a Member who belongs to a group with Members in the Executive. Council may also appoint the Vice-Chair.

6. ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION

- 6.1 At the Council's AGM in May, and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.2(a), Council allocated the 20 Notices of Motion for Municipal Year 2019 - 2020 as follows:

Labour – 9
Plaid Cymru – 4
Alliance - 2
Conservatives – 1
Unallocated Member (x4) - 1 each

- 6.2 In light of the change to political balance Members' instructions are now sought as to whether the allocation of Notices of Motion for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019 – 2020 is to be amended.

APPENDIX**POLITICAL BALANCE 2019-20 (as at 12th June 2019)****TABLE A**

	Total	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Alliance	Independent	Conservative	Unallocated
Members	75	47	17	5	3	2	1
Political Balance							
Committee	Available Seats	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Alliance	Independent	Conservative	
Planning & Development	11	7	3	1	0	0	
Licensing	11	7	2	1	1	0	
Constitution	8	5	2	1	0	0	
Appointments	5	4	1	0	0	0	
Pensions	5	3	1	0	0	1	
Appeals	5	3	1	0	1	0	
Total Seats	45	29	10	3	2	1	

TABLE B**TABLE TO CALCULATE POLITICAL BALANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES**

Total Seats	Labour	Plaid	Alliance	Independent	Conservative
3	2	1	0	0	0
4	3	1	0	0	0
5	3	1	1	0	0
6	4	1	1	0	0
7	4	2	1	0	0
8	5	2	1	0	0
9	6	2	1	0	0
10	6	2	1	1	0
11	7	3	1	0	0
12	8	3	1	0	0
13	8	3	1	1	0
14	9	3	1	1	0
15	10	3	1	1	0
16	10	4	1	1	0
17	11	4	1	1	0
18	11	4	1	1	1
19	12	4	1	1	1
20	13	5	1	1	0

TABLE C**INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES SUBJECT TO POLITICAL BALANCE**

Committee	Available Seats	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Alliance	Independent	Conservative
Overview & Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1	0
Finance & Performance Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1	0
Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1	0
Children & Young People Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1	0
Health & Well-Being Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1	0
Democratic Services	14	9	3	1	1	0
Audit	14	9	3	1	1	0

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL

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JOINT REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES

REPORT

The Political Balance of the Council, Appointment of Scrutiny and Democratic Services Committee Chairs and Allocation of Notices of Motion

Freestanding matter