

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017 - 2018**

**COUNCIL  
29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**Agenda Item No. 7**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL  
AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE  
COUNCIL, APPOINTMENT OF  
COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND  
ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF  
MOTION**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To advise Members of the outcome of the review of the political balance of the Council following the formation of the 'Alliance' political group, the consequential effect on the appointment of Committee Chairs and 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 Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him as Proper Officer of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject, in the case of subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees, being referred to Council;
- 2.3 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;
- 2.4 To determine which Scrutiny Committee Chairs are to be allocated to the Plaid Cymru and Alliance Group;
- 2.5 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.

- 2.6 To appoint the Vice-Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees; and
- 2.7 To seek Council's instruction as to whether the allocation of Notices of Motion for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2017 – 2018 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 the 'Alliance' political group consisting of five Members. 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 myself 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 the Council.
- 3.5 Following the formation of the new political group the main changes are that the Alliance Group will have a seat on each of Planning & Development Control, Licensing and Corporate Governance & Constitution Committees and a seat on each of the Committees set out in the Appendix at Table C. The Conservative Group lose their seats on Development Control and Licensing but gain a seat on the Pension Fund and Appeals Committees. The Conservative Group lose the seats they previously held on each of the Committees set out in Table C of the Appendix. The Labour Group lose a seat on the Pension Fund and Appeals Committees. The Plaid Cymru Group lose a seat on the Corporate Governance & Constitution Committees. Both the Labour Group and Plaid Cymru Group retain the seats they previously had on each of the Committees at Table C of the Appendix.

### **4. APPOINTMENT OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR**

- 4.1 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 'Measure'), the Council must appoint the 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.

- 4.2 At the Council's AGM in May Cllr. Joel James, Leader of the Conservative Group, was appointed Chair of the Democratic Services Committee. Following the review of the political balance Cllr. James' group loses its seat on the Democratic Services Committee.
- 4.3 Consequently Council in accordance with the provisions of the Measure, as outlined in paragraph 4.1 above, will need to appoint a replacement Chair for the Democratic Services Committee to take effect from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

## **5. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

- 5.1 The appointment of the persons to Chair the Scrutiny Committees must comply with the requirements set out in the Measure.
- 5.2 In light of the contents of section 3 of this report 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  
Conservative Group - 0

- 5.3 Council must therefore determine which of the following Scrutiny Committees are to be chaired by the 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
- 5.4 Nominations can then be received from appropriate Group Officers to fill those Scrutiny Chair posts.
- 5.5 The Council will also need to appoint the Vice-Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees.

**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 2017 - 2018 as follows:

Labour – 9  
Plaid Cymru - 4  
Conservatives – 1  
Unallocated Members -1 each (x6)

- 6.2 In light of the formation of the Alliance political group and 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 2017 – 2018 is to be amended.

**APPENDIX****POLITICAL BALANCE 2017/18****TABLE A**

	<i><b>Total</b></i>	<i><b>Labour</b></i>	<i><b>Plaid</b></i>	<i><b>Alliance</b></i>	<i><b>Conservative</b></i>	<i><b>Unallocated</b></i>
<b>Members</b>	75	47	18	5	4	1
<b>Political Balance</b>						
<b>Committee</b>	<i><b>Available Seats</b></i>	<i><b>Labour</b></i>	<i><b>Plaid</b></i>	<i><b>Alliance</b></i>	<i><b>Conservative</b></i>	
Planning & Development	11	7	3	1		
Licensing	11	7	3	1		
Constitution	8	5	2	1		
Appointments	5	4	1			
Pensions	5	3	1		1	
Appeals	5	3	1		1	
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	

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

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

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

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Available Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Plaid</b>	<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
Overview & Scrutiny	11	7	3	1	
Finance & Performance Scrutiny	11	7	3	1	
Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny	11	7	3	1	
Children & Young People Scrutiny	11	7	3	1	
Health & Well-Being Scrutiny	11	7	3	1	
Democratic Services	11	7	3	1	
Audit	11	7	3	1	

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**as amended by**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**COUNCIL**

**29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**REPORT**

**The Political Balance of the Council**

**Freestanding matter**

**OFFICER TO CONTACT**

Mr. Andy Wilkins

(01443) 424189

