



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019 - 2020

COUNCIL

31st JULY 2019

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

THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL 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 Rhondda Electoral Ward By-Election; 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 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 The recent Rhondda Electoral Ward By-Election has necessitated 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 The Plaid Cymru Group gain an additional seat on the Licensing Committee (previously held by the Independent Group) and the Independent Group gain a seat on the Appointment's Committee (previously held by the Labour Group). The political balance on the Committees subject to individual Political Balance as shown in Table C remains unchanged.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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. ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION

- 4.1 Following the review of the Council's Political Balance at the June Council meeting (and formation of the Independent Group), the Council allocated the 20 Notices of Motion for Municipal Year 2019 - 2020 as follows:

Labour - 10
Plaid Cymru - 5
Alliance - 2
Independent - 1
Conservatives - 1
Unallocated Member (x1) - 1

4.2 In light of the current 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 24th July 2019)****TABLE A**

	Total	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Alliance	Independent	Conservative	Unallocated
Members	75	46	18	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	3	1	0	0	
Constitution	8	5	2	1	0	0	
Appointments	5	3	1	0	1	0	
Pensions	5	3	1	0	0	1	
Appeals	5	3	1	0	1	0	
Total Seats	45	28	11	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	2	0	0	0
7	4	2	1	0	0
8	5	2	1	0	0
9	6	2	1	0	0
10	6	3	1	0	0
11	7	3	1	0	0
12	7	3	1	1	0
13	8	3	1	1	0
14	9	3	1	1	0
15	9	4	1	1	0
16	10	4	1	1	0
17	11	4	1	1	0
18	11	4	1	1	1
19	12	5	1	1	0
20	12	5	1	1	1

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

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL

31st JULY 2019

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

REPORT

**The Political Balance of the Council and Allocation
of Notices of Motion**

Freestanding matter