

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-15

**COUNCIL
21 MAY 2014**

Agenda Item No.11

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

**THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE
COUNCIL**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To advise Members of the outcome of the annual review of the Political Balance of the Authority.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (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 this report, be adopted.
- (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.
- (3) To note that Members of the Cabinet be not eligible for appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Scrutiny Committees and the Audit Committee.
- (4) To note that Members of the Cabinet will be able to participate in meetings of the Development Control Committee subject to the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct and the Development Control Committee Code of Good Practice.
- (5) 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 the positions.

3. BACKGROUND

- 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. In the case of the Council, it is a requirement that the representation of the different political groups to secure political balance is reviewed at, or as soon as practicable after the annual meeting of the Council.
- 3.2 Subject to the adoption of the scheme, it will be the duty of the Council to make appointments to those seats in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and to facilitate this process, 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.
- 3.3 Members are requested to note that:
- A Member of the Cabinet may not be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, nor any of the Scrutiny Committees, or the Audit Committee.
 - Members of the Cabinet will be able to participate in meetings of the Development Control Committee subject to the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct and the Development Control Committee Code of Good Practice.
 - At least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from the positions.

APPENDIX

POLITICAL BALANCE 2014/15

TABLE A

| | | <i>Labour</i> | <i>Plaid</i> | <i>IND</i> | <i>DAG</i> | <i>Unallocated</i> |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| Members | 75 | 60 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Total | | | | | |
| Political Balance | Seats | | | | | |
| *Development Control | 18 | 15 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Licensing | 15 | 12 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Constitution | 7 | 6 | 1 | | | |
| Appointments | 5 | 4 | 1 | | | |
| Appeals | 5 | 4 | | | 1 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | 50 | 41 | 6 | 2 | 1 | |

*Subject to the Council's earlier decision on Agenda Item No.8.

TABLE B

TABLE TO CALCULATE POLITICAL BALANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES

| Total Seats | | Labour | Plaid | IND | DAG |
|-------------|--|--------|-------|-----|-----|
| 3 | | 3 | | | |
| 4 | | 3 | 1 | | |
| 5 | | 4 | 1 | | |
| 6 | | 5 | 1 | | |
| 7 | | 6 | 1 | | |
| 8 | | 7 | 1 | | |
| 9 | | 7 | 1 | 1 | |
| 10 | | 8 | 1 | 1 | |
| 11 | | 9 | 1 | 1 | |
| 12 | | 10 | 1 | 1 | |
| 13 | | 11 | 2 | | |
| 14 | | 11 | 2 | 1 | |
| 15 | | 12 | 2 | 1 | |
| 16 | | 13 | 2 | 1 | |
| 17 | | 14 | 2 | 1 | |
| 18 | | 15 | 2 | 1 | |
| 19 | | 15 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 20 | | 16 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES SUBJECT TO POLITICAL BALANCE

| | Seats | Labour | Plaid | IND | DAG |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Overview & Scrutiny | 17 | 14 | 2 | 1 | |
| Community Services Scrutiny | 17 | 14 | 2 | 1 | |
| Environmental Services Scrutiny | 17 | 14 | 2 | 1 | |
| Corporate Services Scrutiny | 17 | 14 | 2 | 1 | |
| Education & Childrens Scrutiny | 17 | 14 | 2 | 1 | |
| Democratic Services Scrutiny | 15 | 12 | 2 | 1 | |
| Audit | 15 | 12 | 2 | 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

21 MAY 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

REPORT

The Political Balance of the Council

Local Government & Housing Act 1989
Local Government (Committees and Political Groups)
Regulations 1990

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