

**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
	<b>Total</b>					
<b>Political Balance</b>	<b>Seats</b>					
*Development Control	18	15	2	1		
Licensing	15	12	2	1		
Constitution	7	6	1			
Appointments	5	4	1			
Appeals	5	4			1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	

\*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**

	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Plaid</b>	<b>IND</b>	<b>DAG</b>
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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