

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015-16

**COUNCIL
20 MAY 2015**

Agenda Item No.10

**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 or Scrutiny Committees
- (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 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 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 the positions.

APPENDIX

POLITICAL BALANCE 2015/16

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	

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	
Finance & Performance Scrutiny	17	14	2	1	
Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny	17	14	2	1	
Children & Young People Scrutiny	17	14	2	1	
Health & Well-Being 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
20 MAY 2015

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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