



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th MAY 2021

THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES AND SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

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 this report, be adopted;
- 2.2 That the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication 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 Governance & Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions; and
- 2.5 To seek Council's instruction as to whether the allocation of Notices of Motion for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2021 – 2022 is to be amended.

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 Governance & Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions.

4. **POLITICAL BALANCE**

4.1 Following the review of the political balance of the Council in response to two by-elections held recently, I would inform Members that the appointment of the available seats is as set out in Tables A and B of the Appendix to this report. The RCT Independent Group lose their seat on the Pension Committee with the Conservative Group gaining this seat.

4.2 The Conservative Group gain a seat on the Governance and Audit Committee, Democratic Services Committee and the Council's Scrutiny Committees (this seat was previously held by the RCT Independent Group). The RCT independent Group retain one seat on each of these Committees as show in Table C of the Appendix.

5. **ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

5.1 Following the review of the Council's Political Balance at the Council meeting in September 2020 the Council allocated the 20 Notices of Motion for Municipal Year 2021 - 2022 as follows:

Labour - 10
Plaid Cymru - 6
RCT Independent Group - 2
Conservatives - 1
Unallocated Member (x1) - 1

5.2 In light of the 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 2021 – 2022 is to be amended.

APPENDIX**POLITICAL BALANCE 2021 - 2022****TABLE A**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labour</i>	<i>Plaid Cymru</i>	<i>RCT Ind</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Unallocated</i>
Members	75	48	17	6	3	1
Political Balance						
Committee	<i>Available Seats</i>	<i>Labour</i>	<i>Plaid Cymru</i>	<i>RCT Ind</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	
Planning & Development	11	7	3	1	0	
Licensing	11	7	2	1	1	
Constitution	8	5	2	1	0	
Appointments	5	4	1	0	0	
Pensions	5	3	1	0	1	
Appeals	5	3	1	1	0	
Total Seats	45					

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

Total Seats	Labour	Plaid	RCT Ind	Conservative
3	2	1	0	0
4	3	1	0	0
5	3	1	1	0
6	4	1	1	0
7	4	2	1	0
8	5	2	1	0
9	6	2	1	0
10	7	2	1	0
11	7	3	1	0
12	8	3	1	0
13	8	3	1	1
14	9	3	1	1
15	10	3	1	1
16	11	4	1	0
17	11	4	1	1
18	12	4	1	1
19	12	4	2	1
20	13	4	2	1

TABLE C

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES SUBJECT TO POLITICAL BALANCE

Committee	Available Seats	Labour	Plaid Cymru	RCT Ind	Conservative
Overview & Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1
Finance & Performance Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1
Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1
Children & Young People Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1
Health & Well-Being Scrutiny	14	9	3	1	1
Democratic Services	14	9	3	1	1
Governance & Audit Committee	14	9	3	1	1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES AND
SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.**

REPORT

Local Government & Housing Act 1989

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups)

Regulations 1990