

# Public Document Pack

## ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

**Thursday, 5 December 2013 (2.00 pm)**

Please find the attached report marked as "TO FOLLOW" on the Isle of Anglesey County Council agenda which was not received by the agreed cut-off time.

**8**                    **POLITICAL BALANCE** (Pages 1 - 4)

To submit the report of the Interim Head of Democratic Services. – **TO FOLLOW**

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ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>COUNTY COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>5 DECEMBER 2013</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>POLITICAL BALANCE ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE COUNCIL</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL BALANCE FOLLOWING A REDUCTION IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF ONE GROUP</b>

1.0 The Council needs to review the political balance arrangements on its Committees following notice that 1 member has ceased to be a member of the Labour Group.

2.0 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the main principles governing political balance, which are :

*“(a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;*

*(b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Authority’s membership;*

*(c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant Authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that Authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority; and*

*(d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority.”*

3.0 The political balance on the Council is now as follows:-

Plaid Cymru Party of Wales	-	12
Labour	-	2
Independent Group	-	12
Unaffiliated	-	4

4.0 The recent change means in effect that the Labour Group loses 4 seats in total based on the total number of seats (120) available in October 2013.

5.0 In accordance with political management protocols the revised political management arrangements have been discussed with Group Leaders.

6.0 In keeping with local conventions and to reflect the principles of political balance the matrix attached to this report includes details on the fractional entitlement to each group.

## **7.0 Scrutiny Committees**

7.1 In effect the matrix reduces Labours entitlement from 2 to 1 seat only. However it is noted that the Labour Group would be prohibited from taking up the seat because Group Members are on the Executive. This would mean that a total of 3 seats on Scrutiny Committees would not be allocated to groups and could, if the Council agrees, be given to unaffiliated members (changes are marked in green).

7.2 The power of the Council to allocate seats to unaffiliated members is restricted to those seats which are not filled under the political balance rules i.e. unallocated seats. Seats allocated to Labour, which they cannot fill, are still allocated seats and therefore cannot be filled by unaffiliated members.

7.3 There is one exception to all of this which is that the full Council could allocate Labour seats to other members, but only provided that no member voted against that allocation.

## **8.0 Quasi Judicial Committees**

8.1 The matrix highlights a reduction of 2 seats for the Labour Group based on fractional entitlements. There is scope for the Council to achieve this reduction by reviewing the Labour Group's representation on the following Committees:

- Audit Committee
- Democratic Services Committee
- Appointments Committee
- Investigation Committee
- Appeals Committee

8.2 In relation to the Audit Committee the Labour Group would be prohibited from taking up a seat because Group Members are on the Executive.

8.3 The Group Leaders are recommending that the Labour Group would not have a seat on both the Audit Committee and Appeals Committee. The Council could agree to allocate these to Unaffiliated Members (changes marked in yellow).

## **9.0 Other Committees**

9.1 The obvious reduction here relates to the Labour Group losing 1 seat on the Indemnities Sub Committee. This is supported by Group Leaders. Subject to the Council's agreement and in keeping with local convention the seat would be allocated to an Unaffiliated Member (marked in orange).

**10.0 Recommendations:-**

- (i) to confirm the political balance arrangements and the number of seats allocated to each of the Groups under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the number of seats given by custom and practice to the Members not subject to political balance as set out in the matrix;
- (ii) in accordance with recommendation (i) above, the Council delegates to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders to determine the allocation of seats to Unaffiliated Members arising from these changes and advise the Committee Services Manager accordingly.
- (iii) that the Labour Group Leader be requested to provide details of committee membership to the Committee Services Manager as soon as possible in accordance with the changes highlighted in this report.

**Huw Jones**  
**Interim Head of Democratic Services**  
**26/11/13**

**TACHWEDD 2013**  
 yn dilyn ymddiswyddiad  
**NOVEMBER 2013**  
 following resignation

<b>Balans ar y Cyngor Sir</b> <b>Balance on County Council</b>	12
Plaid Cymru Party of Wales	2
Llafur Labour	12
Grwp Annibynnol Independent Group	4
Heb Ymaelodi Unaffiliated	30

PWYLLGORAU CRAFFU A THROSOLWGW			
Pwyllgorau Committees	Partneriaeth Partnership	Cyfansw m Craffu Total Scrutiny	
		Corfforaethol Corporate	
Aelodaeth Membership	10	10	20
	4	4	8
	0.666667	0.66667	1.33333
	4	4	8
	1.333333	1.33333	2.66667
	10	10	20

**ALLWEDD** **KEY**  
 Chwith uchaf, italic = Nawl ffracsiynol damcaniaet  
 Top left, italic, theoretical fractional entitlement  
 Dde isaf, arferol = awgrym rhif llawn  
 Bottom right, normal = whole number suggestion

Pwyllgorau Committees	LLED-FARNWROL LLED-FARNWROL QUASI-JUDICIAL										PWYLLGORAU ERAILL Y CYNGOR OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL					Cyfanswm Eraill Total Others
	Cynllunio a Gorchymnion Planning and Orders	Archwilio Audit	Gwasanaethau Democratiaid Democratic Services	Penodiadau Appointments	Ymchwilio Investigation	Disgyblu Disciplinary	Apeliadau Appeals	Trwyddedu Licensing	CYSAG SACRE	Anghenion Addysgol Arbenigol Special Educational Needs	Cynllunio ar y cyd Joint Planning	Tal a Graddio Pay and Grading	Penodi Safonau Standards Appointing	Is-Bwyllgor Indemnitiadau Indemnities sub-Committee		
Aelodaeth Membership	11	8	10	10	3	3	10	11	6	7	7	6	3	5	100	
Plaid Cymru Party of Wales	4.4	3.2	4	4	1.2	4	4.4	5	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.4	2	2	40	
Llafur Labour	0.73333	0.53333	0.66667	0.66667	0.2	0.2	0.66667	0.733333	0.4	0.46667	0.46667	0.4	0.333333	6.666667		
Grwp Annibynnol Independent Group	4.4	3.2	4	4	1.2	4	4.4	5	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.4	2	40		
Heb Ymaelodi Unaffiliated	1.46667	1.06667	1.33333	1.33333	0.4	1	1.333333	1.466667	0.8	0.93333	0.93333	0.8	0.666667	13.33333		
	11	8	10	10	3	3	10	11	6	7	7	6	5	100		

<b>CYFANSWM LLAWN</b>	120
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	48
	8
	48
	16
	120