

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting:	County Council
Date:	12 May 2026
Title of report:	Political Balance of Committees
Report by:	Head of Democracy
Purpose of Report:	To review the political balance on committees in accordance with the Council's constitution and local government legislation.

Background

1. The Council needs to review political balance arrangements on its committees on an annual basis. The last review took place in March 2026, following a change in the political balance of the Council, but the allocation of committee seats needs to be reconsidered at the Council's annual meeting.
2. 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.”¹

3. The political situation on the Council is as follows (political balance only recognises political groups on the Council and for that there have to be at least two members):

Plaid Cymru -	19
Anglesey Independents -	7
Y Grŵp Annibynnol -	4
Welsh Labour -	3
Unaffiliated members	2
Total -	35

Allocation of Seats on Committees

4. Unless the calculation arrives at whole numbers for the total number of seats or the number of seats on each committee, then it is necessary to achieve the best possible compliance on the figures in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 2 above.
5. Committee seats are for political groups; there is no specific right for unaffiliated members who do not belong to a group to any seat, apart from on the County Council itself. As paragraph 3 shows, the Council currently has two individual/unaffiliated members. If there is no objection from the County Council, it is possible to assign the unallocated seats to those members.
6. If any member of the County Council opposes the principle of assigning unallocated seats to the two unaffiliated members, the seats will remain unallocated. Political groups cannot fill these seats. The County Council decided in its meeting in March to assign committee seats to the two members, but the situation needs to be reviewed again at the County Council's annual meeting.
7. Subject to there being no objection from any member to the general principle of allocation to the unaffiliated members, their current membership of committees will continue.
8. Each political group on the Council can only allocate the seats it receives under the political balance arrangements to its own members and not to elected members who are not members of the same political group.

¹ Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Sections 15(5)(a) to (d)

9. There is no change to the allocation of seats proposed in this report. Appendix A explains the allocation of committee seats based on political balance.

10. Recommendations

- a. That the Council confirms the political balance arrangements for allocating committee seats as outlined in Appendix A.
- b. That the unallocated seats are allocated between the two individual / unaffiliated members.
- c. That group leaders advise the Head of Democracy as soon as possible of any changes to group membership on Committees.