

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Meeting:	County Council
Date:	13 August 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 the annual Council meeting on 12 May 2026.
2. Following a change in the political balance of the Council, the allocation of committee seats needs to be reconsidered again. There was a change in Plaid Cymru group membership at the end of May, with one member leaving the group to become an independent non-affiliated member. The Council's political group leaders agreed not to review the political balance immediately and instead wait until after the Bro'r Llynnoedd by-election on 30 July.
3. 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

4. The political situation on the Council following the by-election and the change to the membership of the Plaid Cymru group 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 -	18 (-1)
Anglesey Independents -	7
Y Grŵp Annibynnol -	4
Welsh Labour -	3
Unaffiliated members	3 (+1)
Total -	35

Allocation of Seats on Committees

5. 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 3 above.
6. Committee seats are for political groups; there is no specific right for unaffiliated members to any seat, apart from on the County Council itself. As paragraph 4 shows, the Council currently has three unaffiliated members. If there is no objection from the County Council, it is possible to assign unallocated seats to those members.
7. If any member of the County Council opposes the principle of assigning unallocated seats to the three unaffiliated members, the seats will remain unallocated. Political groups cannot fill these seats. The County Council decided at its meeting in May to offer committee seats to the unaffiliated members at that time, but the situation needs to be reviewed again as there is now an additional unaffiliated member.
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. Appendix A explains the allocation of committee seats based on political balance following the recent change. There are 5 fewer seats for the Plaid Cymru group, and those seats go to the Anglesey Independents group (both scrutiny committees, the appointments committee and the appeals committee) and one seat is available to an unaffiliated member (the democratic services committee), subject to the Council's agreement.
10. Recommendations
 - a. That the Council confirms the political balance arrangements for allocating committee seats as outlined in Appendix A.
 - b. That unallocated seats are allocated between the three unaffiliated members.
 - c. That group leaders advise the Head of Democracy as soon as possible of any changes to group membership on Committees.

Awst / August 26

Balans ar y Cyngor Sir Balance on County Council	
Plaid Cymru Party of Wales	18
Llafur Cymru Welsh Labour	3
Y Grwp Annibynnol	4
Annibynwyr Mon Anglesey Independents	7
Di-gyswilt/ Unaffiliated	3

Cyfanswm / Total 35

51.43%
8.60%
11.40%
20%

PWYLLGORAU CRAFFU SCRUTINY COMMITTEES				
Pwyllgorau Committees	Partneriaeth Partnership	Corfforaethol Corporate	Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig CJC	Cyfanswm Craffu Total Scrutiny
Aelodaeth Membership	12	12	2	26
	(-1) 6	(-1) 6		13
	1	1		2
	1	1		2
	(+1) 3	(+1) 3	1	7
	*1 12	*1 12		26

ALLWEDD	KEY
<i>Chwith uchaf, italic = hawl ffractsiynol damcaniaethol</i> <i>Top left, italic, theoretical fractional entitlement</i>	
Dde isaf, arferol = awgrym rhif llawn Bottom right, normal = whole number suggestion	

LLED-FARNWROL QUASI-JUDICIAL									PWYLLGORAU ERAILL Y CYNGOR OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL				Cyfanswm Eraill Total Others
Pwyllgorau Committees	Cynllunio a Gorchymnion Planning and Orders	Llywodraethu ac Archwilio Governance & Audit	Gwasanaethau Democratiaidd Democratic Services	Penodiadau Appointments	Ymchwilio Investigation	Disgyblu Disciplinary	Apeliadau Appeals	Trwyddedu Licensing	CYS SAC	Pwyllgor Polisi Cynllunio Planning Policy Committee	Penodi Safonau Standards Appointing	Is-Bwyllgor Indemnïadau sub-Committee	
Aelodaeth Membership	13	8	9	12	3	3	12	13	6	11	3	5	98
Plaid Cymru Party of Wales	7	4	(-1) 4	(-1) 6	2	2	(-1) 6	7	3	6	2	3	52
Llafur Labour	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	8
Grwp Annibynnol Independent Group	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	9
Annibynwyr Mon Anglesey Independents	3	2	2	(+1) 3	1	1	(+1) 3	3	1	2	1	1	23
Unigol / Unaffiliated* Cyfanswm	*1 13	8	(+1) 8	*1 12	3	3	*1 12	*1 13	6	*1 11	3	5	97

CYFANSWM LLAWN	
GRAND TOTAL	124
	65
	10
	11
	30
	116