

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	10 OCTOBER 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	POLITICAL BALANCE ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE COUNCIL
REPORT BY:	INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL BALANCE FOLLOWING A REDUCTION IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF ONE GROUP AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES

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 Independent 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	-	3
Independent Group	-	12
Unaffiliated	-	3

4.0 The recent change means in effect that the Independent Group loses 3 seats in total based on the total number of seats (114) allocated to Groups in May 2013. In keeping with local conventions and to reflect the principles of political balance the scope for these changes are limited to the following committees where the Independent Group loses 1 seat to be re-allocated to an Unaffiliated Member:-

- Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
- SACRE
- Pay and Grading

5.0 These changes are highlighted in yellow on the matrix attached to this report. The matrix has also been populated with 2 new Committees established by the Council on 26 September to be politically balanced – an Investigation Committee and a Disciplinary Committee. This increases the total number of seats available for allocation from 114 to 120. In accordance with the principles of political balance and local conventions, 1 seat would be allocated on each of these two new Committees to the Independent Group and to Plaid Cymru and 1 to the Labour Group on one of those Committees. By convention the remaining seat would need to be allocated to an Unaffiliated Member in order to reach the maximum number of seats available for allocation (120). This is highlighted in blue on the matrix.

6.0 In accordance with political management protocols the revised political management arrangements [taking account of the reduction in the membership of the Independent Group and the establishment of 2 new Committees] have been discussed with Group Leaders.

7.0 **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, that the Leader in consultation with Group Leaders determine the allocation of seats to Unaffiliated Members arising from these changes and advise the Committee Services Manager accordingly.
- (iii) that Group Leaders 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

HYDREF 2013
Pwyllgorau newydd
OCTOBER 2013
New committees

PWYLLGORAU CRAFFU A THROSOLWG SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEES			
Pwyllgorau Committees	Partneriaeth Partnership	Corfforaethol Corporate	Cyfanswm Craffu Total Scrutiny
Aelodaeth Membership	10	10	20
	4	4	8
	4	4	8
	1	1	2
	1	1	2
	4	4	8
	4	4	8
	1	1	2
	1	1	2
	10	10	20
	10	10	20

Balans ar y Cyngor Sir Balance on County Council	
Plaid Cymru Party of Wales	12
Llafur Labour	3
Grwp Annibynnol Independent Group	12
Heb Ymaelodi Unaffiliated	3
	30

Pwyllgorau Committees	LLED-FARNWROL QUASI-JUDICIAL								PWYLLGORAU ERAILL Y CYNGOR OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL							Cyfanswm Eraill Total Others	CYFANSWM LLAWN GRAND TOTAL
	Cynllunio a Gorchmynion Planning and Orders	Archwilio Audit	Gwasanaethau Democratiaidd Democratic Services	Penodiadau Appointments	Ymchwilio Investigation	Disgyblu Disciplinary	Apeliadau Appeals	Trwyddedu Licensing	CYSAG SACRE	Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig Special Educational Needs	Cynllunio ar y cyd Joint Planning	Tal a Graddio Pay and Grading	Penodi Safonau Standards Appointing	Is-Bwyllgor Indemniadau Indemnities sub-Committee			
Aelodaeth Membership	11	8	10	10	3	3	10	11	6	7	7	6	3	5	100	120	
Plaid Cymru Party of Wales	4.4	3.2	4	4	1.2	1.2	4	4.4	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.4	1.2	2	40	48	
Llafur Labour	1.1	0.8	1	1	0.3	0.3	1	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.5	10	12	
Grwp Annibynnol Independent Group	4.4	3.2	4	4	1.2	1.2	4	4.4	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.4	1.2	2	40	48	
Heb Ymaelodi Unaffiliated	1.1	0.8	1	1	0.3	0.3	1	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.5	10	12	
	11	8	10	10	3	3	10	11	6	7	7	6	3	5	100	120	
	11	8	10	10	3	3	10	11	6	7	7	6	3	5	100	120	