

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	5 DECEMBER 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

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

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

PWYLLGORAU CRAFFU A THROSOLWGW				
Pwyllgorau	Partneriaeth		Cytansw	
	Partnership	Corporate	Partnership	Corporate
Committees				
Aelodaeth	10	10	10	20
Membership	4	4	4	8
	0.666667	0.66667	1.33333	8
	4	4	1	1
	1.333333	1.33333	2.66667	8
	10	10	20	3
	10	10	20	20

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

Pwyllgorau	LLED-FARNWROL LLED-FARNWROL										OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL					Cyfanswm Eraill	Total Others
	QUASI-JUDICIAL		QUASI-JUDICIAL		QUASI-JUDICIAL		QUASI-JUDICIAL		QUASI-JUDICIAL		QUASI-JUDICIAL		QUASI-JUDICIAL		QUASI-JUDICIAL		
Committees	Cynllunio a Gorchmynion	Archwilio	Gwasanaethau Democratiaidd	Penodiadau	Ymchwilio	Disgyblu	Apeliadau	Trwyddedu	CYSAG	Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig	Cynllunio ar y cyd	Tal a Graddio	Penodi Safonau	Is-Bwyllgor	Cyfanswm		
Aelodaeth	11	8	10	10	3	3	10	11	6	7	7	6	3	5	100		
Membership	4.4	3.2	4	4	1.2	4	4.4	5	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.4	2	40			
Party of Wales	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			
Llafur	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	7			
Labour	4.4	3.2	4	4	1.2	4	4.4	5	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.4	2	40			
Grwp Annibynnol	1.46667	1.06667	1.33333	1.33333	0.4	0.4	1.333333	1.466667	0.8	0.93333	0.93333	0.8	0.666667	13.33333			
Independent Group	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	13			
Heb Ymaelodi	11	8	10	10	3	3	10	11	6	7	7	6	5	100			
Unaffiliated	11	8	10	10	3	3	10	11	6	7	7	6	5	100			

CYFANSWM	120
LLAWN	48
GRAND	8
TOTAL	48
	16
	120