



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25th MAY 2022

THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES AND SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To advise Members of the outcome of the review of the Political Balance of the Authority following the local government elections held on the 5th May 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to this report, be adopted;
- 2.2 That the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject to any subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees, being referred to Council; and
- 2.3 To seek Council's instruction as to whether the allocation of Notices of Motion for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2022 – 2023 is to be amended.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 makes provisions for securing the political balance on certain relevant Authorities, Committees and Bodies. In the case of the Council, it is a requirement that the representation of the different political groups to secure political balance is reviewed at, or as soon as practicable after, the annual meeting of the Council.
- 3.2 Subject to the adoption of the scheme, it will be the duty of the Council to make appointments to those seats in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and to facilitate this process, it has been previous practice for power to be delegated to myself to accept and make the appointments notified to me by the political groups. However, in the

case of subsequent requests for amendments to the membership of Committees, they should be the subject of a report to the Council.

3.3 Members are requested to note that:

- A Member of the Cabinet may not be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any of the Scrutiny Committees
- At least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Governance & Audit and Democratic Services Committees, but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions.

4. **POLITICAL BALANCE**

4.1 Following the review of the political balance of the Council in response to the Local Government Elections held on the 5th May 2022, Members are informed that the appointment of the available seats is as set out in Tables A and B of the Appendix to this report.

4.2 Subject to members agreeing the revised scrutiny arrangements proposed by the Head of Democratic Services, the allocation of scrutiny committee Chairs would be as follows:

Labour: x3
Plaid Cymru: x1

4.3 Members are again advised that the Democratic Services Committee Chair must be appointed from a political group which does not form part of the Council's Executive arrangements.

4.4 The Governance and Audit Committee must be Chaired by a Lay member of the committee. There is no restriction upon the Vice-Chair being an elected member of the Council.

5. **ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

5.1 In light of the change to the political balance Members' instructions are now sought as to whether the allocation of Notices of Motion for the Municipal Year 2022 – 2023 is to be amended as follows:

Labour - 12
Plaid Cymru -5
RCT Independent Group - 2
Conservatives – 1

APPENDIX 1**POLITICAL BALANCE 2022 - 2023****TABLE A**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Labour</i>	<i>Plaid Cymru</i>	<i>RCT Ind</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Unallocated</i>
Members	75	59	8	6	2	0
Political Balance	100%	78.67%	10.67%	8.00%	2.67%	
Committee	<i>Available Seats</i>	<i>Labour</i>	<i>Plaid Cymru</i>	<i>RCT Ind</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	
Planning & Development	11	9	1	1	0	
Licensing	11	8	1	1	1	
Constitution	8	6	1	1	0	
Appointments	5	4	1	0	0	
Pensions	5	4	1	0	0	
Appeals	5	4	0	1	0	
Total Seats	45	35	5	4	1	

TABLE B**INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES SUBJECT TO POLITICAL BALANCE**

Committee	Available Seats	Labour	Plaid Cymru	RCT Ind	Conservative
Overview & Scrutiny	14	11	2	1	0
Scrutiny Committee 1	14	11	2	1	0
Scrutiny Committee 2	14	11	2	1	0
Scrutiny Committee 3	14	11	2	1	0
Democratic Services	17	13	2	1	1
Governance & Audit Committee	6	5	1	0	0

TABLE C
TABLE TO CALCULATE POLITICAL BALANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES

Total Seats	Labour	Plaid	RCT Ind	Conservative
3	3	0	0	0
4	3	1	0	0
5	4	1	0	0
6	5	1	0	0
7	5	1	1	0
8	6	1	1	0
9	7	1	1	0
10	8	1	1	0
11	9	1	1	0
12	10	1	1	0
13	10	2	1	0
14	11	2	1	0
15	12	2	1	0
16	13	2	1	0
17	13	2	1	1
18	14	2	1	1
19	15	2	2	0
20	16	2	2	0

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES AND
SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.**

REPORT

Local Government & Housing Act 1989

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups)

Regulations 1990