



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10th MAY 2023

THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To advise Members of the Political Balance of the Authority.

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 Determine the allocation of Notices of Motion for the Municipal Year 2023-24

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 In line with the political balance of the Council 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 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.

4.3 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 At the 2022 Council AGM, Minute [\(160\)\(3\)](#) refers, Council agreed to the following allocation of Notices of Motion for the Municipal Year 2022 – 2023 as follows:

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

5.2 Council's instruction is sought in respect of the allocation of notice of motion for the Municipal Year 2023-2024

APPENDIX 1**POLITICAL BALANCE 2023 - 2024****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

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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REPORT

Local Government & Housing Act 1989
Local Government (Committees and Political Groups)
Regulations 1990