

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

1 FEBRUARY 2017

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE – CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. Purpose of Report.

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- advise Council of the outcome of a review of the political balance of the Authority.
- seek approval of the revised political balance.
- receive nominations and appoint the necessary members to Committees to reflect the changes in the political balance.
- Receive nominations and appoint Chairpersons to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

2.1 This report supports all of the Corporate Priorities:

1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background.

3.1 The Council is required by legislation and the provisions of Part 4 of the Rules of Procedure (Council Procedure Rules) of the Constitution, to undertake arrangements which will continue to facilitate and carry out the decision making processes of the Authority. On 18 May 2016 Council approved the political balance and made appointments to Committees to reflect the political make-up of the Authority.

3.2 Changes to the political balance of the authority were made at the meeting of Council on 11 January 2017

3.3 Since the last meeting of Council a further review of the political balance is required.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The political composition of Council is now as follows:

Group	No of Cllrs	Percentage
Labour	32	59.26
Independent Alliance	9	16.67
Independent Annibynwr	4	7.41
Plaid Cymru	1	1.85
Independent (LE)	1	1.85
Independent (DKE)	1	1.85
Independent (EMH)	1	1.85
Independent (GWD)	1	1.85
Independent (PJ)	1	1.85
Independent (RT)	1	1.85
Independent (HM)	1	1.85
Independent (CW)	1	1.85
Totals	54	100

4.2 Following the review of political balance the membership of committees has been updated to reflect the composition of Council accordingly. The updated political balance figures are shown at **Appendix 1** of the report. The variation of the political balance is between -0.30 seats and + 0.33 seats.

4.3 The changes required to committee membership to reflect the revised political balance are as follows:

4.3.1 Labour

The Labour Group is required to relinquish 3 seats and will gain 2 seats as shown in Appendix 1, namely on the Audit Committee and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.3.2 Independent Alliance

No change

4.3.3 Independent Annibynwr

No change

4.3.4 Plaid Cymru

No change

4.3.5 Independent Members

3 committee seats have been allocated to Councillor Westwood as an Independent Member to ensure that she is able to continue to engage in the Council's decision making processes on the following Committees:

- Appeals Panel
- Development Control Committee
- Partnerships & Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.4 Scrutiny Chairperson Allocation

- 4.4.1 The current political balance will change the allocation of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons. In accordance with Statutory Guidance made under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, as the Council has more than 2 political groups and multiple scrutiny committees, political groups represented in the executive can only appoint as many chairs as are proportionate to their combined share of the Council's overall membership, rounding down if this does not equal the whole number of chairs. The rest of the scrutiny chairs are the "property" of those groups not represented in the executive. If there is more than one non-executive group, each gets a share of the chairs in proportion to their membership, rounding to the nearest whole number, including zero.
- 4.4.2 In accordance with the formula as set out in paragraph 4.4.1 the appointment of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons is required to be as follows:

Number of members of council = 54
Number in executive group (Labour) = 32
Number of scrutiny chairs = 5
Number of scrutiny chairs for executive group (Labour) = 2
Number of chairs remaining = 3
Number of non-executive group(s) = 2
Size of non-executive group (Independent Alliance) = 9
Size of non-executive group (Independent Annibynwr) = 4
Entitlement to scrutiny chairs of (Independent Alliance) = 2
Entitlement of scrutiny chairs of (Independent Annibynwr) = 1

This formula is based upon the calculation of the percentage of the number of members comprising the three political groups of the Council as follows:

Labour 59.26%
Independent Alliance 16.67%
Independent Annibynwr 7.41%
Members not aligned to a political group account for 16.65%

- 4.5 It should be noted that the political groups can interchange their representatives appointed to committees within the limits shown in **Appendix 1**. A list of the current membership of the committees is shown at **Appendix 2**. Should any of the existing Chairpersons be removed from any Committee, Council will be requested to appoint a new Chairperson from the revised Committee membership.
- 4.6 Group Leaders have been informed of these proposals and have not raised any objections or concerns. Councillor Cheryl Green as Leader of the Independent Alliance Group has notified the Monitoring Officer that Councillor Norah Clarke will be nominated for the Chairperson of the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee that is to be relinquished by the Labour Group.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The provisions and recommendations of the report accord with the Council's Constitution.

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1 There are no financial implications.

8. Recommendations.

8.1 Council is recommended to:-

- (1) note the change to the political composition of the Council;
- (2) approve the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules as set out in **Appendix 1** of the report;
- (3) seek nominations as shown in paragraph 4.3 to be removed from or to be appointed to serve on each of the Committees, Panels and other bodies;
- (4) appoint the nominations identified in Paragraph 4.3 to their respective committees.
- (5) receive nominations and appoint Chairpersons to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

P A Jolley

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16 January 2017

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Background documents: None.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**Appeals Panel**

Labour to relinquish 1 seat TBC to be replaced by Cllr C Westwood

	Member	Group	Role
1.	PA Davies	Labour	
2.	C Westwood	Labour Independent	
3.	N Clarke	Independent Alliance	
4.	CA Green	Independent Alliance	
5.	P James	Labour	
6.	DRW Lewis	Labour	
7.	JE Lewis	Labour	
8.	JR McCarthy	Labour	Chairperson
9.	EM Hughes	Independent	
10.	RM James	Plaid Cymru	
11.	D Patel	Labour	
12.	RE Young	Labour	

Appointments Committee

	Member	Group	Role
1.	HJ David	Labour	Chairperson /Leader
2.	HM Williams	Labour	Deputy Leader
3.	Cabinet Member	Labour	Portfolio holder
4.	CA Green	Independent Alliance	
5.	JH Tildesley MBE	Independent Annibynwr	
6.	HJ Townsend	Labour	

Audit Committee

Labour to replace Cllr C Westwood

	Member	Group	Role
1.	G Davies	Independent Alliance	
2.	R Williams	Labour	
3.	E Dodd	Independent Annibynwr	Chairperson
4.	DK Edwards	Independent	
5.	CA Green	Independent Alliance	
6.	M Gregory	Labour	
7.	CL Jones	Labour	
8.	JE Lewis	Labour	
9.	JR McCarthy	Labour	
10.	D Sage	Labour	
11.	C Westwood	Labour	
12.	RE Young	Labour	
	J Williams		Lay-Member

Democratic Services Committee

	Member	Group	Role
1.	MEJ Nott OBE	Labour	
2.	L Ellis	Independent	
3.	N Farr	Labour	
4.	CA Green	Independent Alliance	
5.	M Gregory	Labour	
6.	P James	Labour	
7.	M Reeves	Labour	
8.	G Thomas	Labour	
9.	JH Tildesley MBE	Independent Annibynwr	Chairperson
10.	RC Jones	Labour	
11.	E Venables	Independent Alliance	

Development Control Committee

Labour to relinquish 1 seat TBC to be replaced by Cllr C Westwood

	Member	Group	Role
1.	N Clarke	Independent Alliance	
2.	GW Davies MBE	Independent	
3.	PA Davies	Labour	
4.	L Ellis	Independent	
5.	CA Green	Independent Alliance	
6.	DRW Lewis	Labour	
7.	JE Lewis	Labour	
8.	HE Morgan	Independent	
9.	LC Morgan	Labour	
10.	D Patel	Labour	
11.	JC Spanswick	Labour	
12.	G Thomas	Labour	
13.	M Thomas	Labour	Chairperson
14.	JH Tildesley MBE	Independent Annibynwr	
15.	C Westwood	Labour Independent	
16.	R Williams	Labour	
17.	M Winter	Independent Alliance	
18.	RE Young	Labour	

Licensing Act 2003 Committee

	Member	Group	Role
1.	GW Davies MBE	Independent	
2.	PA Davies	Labour	
3.	E Dodd	Independent Annibynwr	
4.	CJ James	Labour	
5.	P James	Labour	
6.	RM James	Plaid Cymru	
7.	P John	Independent	
8.	DRW Lewis	Labour	

9.	JE Lewis	Labour	
10.	MEJ Nott OBE	Labour	
11.	DG Owen	Independent Alliance	
12.	M Jones	Labour	
13.	E Venables	Independent Alliance	
14.	R Williams	Labour	Chairperson

Licensing Committee

	Member	Group	Role
1.	GW Davies MBE	Independent	
2.	PA Davies	Labour	
3.	E Dodd	Independent Annibynwr	
4.	CJ James	Labour	
5.	P James	Labour	
6.	RM James	Plaid Cymru	
7.	P John	Independent	
8.	DRW Lewis	Labour	
9.	JE Lewis	Labour	
10.	MEJ Nott OBE	Labour	
11.	DG Owen	Independent Alliance	
12.	M Jones	Labour	
13.	E Venables	Independent Alliance	
14.	R Williams	Labour	Chairperson

Town & Community Council Forum

	Member	Group	Role
1.	S Aspey	Independent Alliance	
2.	M Butcher	Independent Annibynwr	
3.	HJ David	Labour	Chairperson
4.	CA Green	Independent Alliance	
5.	EM Hughes	Independent	
6.	CL Jones	Labour	
7.	HE Morgan	Independent	
8.	DG Owen	Independent Alliance	
9.	G Phillips	Labour	
10.	DR Pugh	Labour	
11.	C Reeves	Labour	
12.	M Reeves	Labour	
13.	D Sage	Labour	
14.	CE Smith	Labour	
15.	R Thomas	Independent	
16.	H Townsend	Labour	
17.	R Williams	Labour	
18.	M Winter	Independent Alliance	
19.	RE Young	Labour	

Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	Member	Group	Role
1.	M Butcher	Independent Annibynwr	
2.	N Clarke	Independent Alliance	
3.	PA Davies	Labour	
4.	N Farr	Labour	
5.	EM Hughes	Independent	
6.	R Williams	Labour	
7.	RC Jones	Labour	
8.	JE Lewis	Labour	
9.	LC Morgan	Labour	
10.	D Sage	Labour	Chairperson
11.	M Thomas	Labour	
12.	E Venables	Independent Alliance	

Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Labour to replace Cllr C Westwood

	Member	Group	Role
1.	PA Davies	Labour	
2.	DK Edwards	Independent	
3.	N Farr	Labour	
4.	EP Foley	Independent Annibynwr	Chairperson
5.	CA Green	Independent Alliance	
6.	P John	Independent	
7.	M Jones	Labour	
8.	G Phillips	Labour	
9.	AD Owen	Labour	
10.	C Westwood	Labour	
11.	DBF White	Labour	
12.	K Watts	Independent Alliance	

Community, Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	Member	Group	Role
1.	M Thomas	Labour	
2.	L Ellis	Independent	
3.	CA Green	Independent Alliance	
4.	CJ James	Labour	
5.	CL Jones	Labour	
6.	JR McCarthy	Labour	
7.	HE Morgan	Independent	
8.	G Phillips	Labour	
9.	JC Spanswick	Labour	Chairperson
10.	JH Tildesley MBE	Independent Annibynwr	
11.	K Watts	Independent Alliance	
12.	R Williams	Labour	

Corporate Resources & Improvement Overview & Scrutiny Committee

	Member	Group	Role
1.	G Davies	Independent Alliance	
2.	Cllr R Thomas	Independent	
3.	E Dodd	Independent Annibynwr	
4.	CA Green	Independent Alliance	
5.	AD Owen	Labour	
6.	DRW Lewis	Labour	
7.	JR McCarthy	Labour	
8.	D Patel	Labour	
9.	M Reeves	Labour	Chairperson
10.	JC Spanswick	Labour	
11.	G Thomas	Labour	
12.	RE Young	Labour	

Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Labour to relinquish 1 seat to be replaced by Cllr C Westwood

	Member	Group	Role
1.	N Clarke	Independent Alliance	Chairperson
2.	E Dodd	Independent Annibynwr	
3.	DK Edwards	Independent	
4.	M Jones	Labour	
5.	JR McCarthy	Labour	
6.	CL Jones	Labour	
7.	AD Owen	Labour	
8.	D Patel	Labour	
9.	M Thomas	Labour	
10.	R Thomas	Independent	
11.	K Watts	Independent Alliance	
12.	C Westwood	Labour Independent	