

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

18 JULY 2018

### 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 resulting from changes to the membership of the Independent Alliance Group.
- seek approval of the revised political balance.
- receive a nomination from the Plaid Cymru Group to sit on Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 and for the Llynfi Independents Group to relinquish a seat on that Committee, to reflect a required change in the political balance of 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 16 May 2018 Council, at its Annual Meeting, approved the political balance and made appointments to Committees to reflect the political make-up of the Authority.
- 3.2 There has been a recent change in respect of the membership of the Independent Alliance Group, whereby Councillor R Stirman has resigned from the Group and will

now sit as a stand-alone Independent member. This does not affect the seats currently allocated to Councillor Stirman whereby she will remain a member of the Development Control Committee and Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1 and 3.

- 3.3 On reviewing the political balance of Committees, it has also been necessary to adjust the number of seats on Committees, whereby the Llynfi Independents Group is required to relinquish a Committee seat and for it to be allocated to the Plaid Cymru Group.

#### 4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The political composition of Council is now as follows:

Group	No of Cllrs	Percentage
Labour	26	48.15
Independent Alliance	10	18.52
Conservative	8	14.81
Llynfi Independents	3	5.56
Plaid Cymru	3	5.56
Independent (JHT)	1	1.85
Independent (RS)	1	1.85
Independent (JW)	1	1.85
Independent (KJW)	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 -0.04 seats and + 0.65 seats.

- 4.3 The change required to committee membership to reflect the revised political balance is as follows:

- 4.3.1 Labour  
No change

- 4.3.2 Conservative  
No change

- 4.3.3 Independent Alliance  
The Independent Alliance Group is required to relinquish a seat on each of the following Committees:

Development Control Committee  
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1  
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

These seats will be maintained by Councillor R Stirman as an Independent member, as opposed to an Independent Alliance member.

- 4.3.4 Plaid Cymru  
To gain one seat on Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2.

#### 4.3.5 Llynfi Independents

To relinquish one seat on Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2.

4.4 Group Leaders have been informed of these proposals and have not raised any objections or concerns.

### **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. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications**

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

### **8. Financial Implications.**

8.1 There are no financial implications.

### **9. Recommendations.**

9.1 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) receive a nomination from the Plaid Cymru Group to sit on Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 and appoint the nomination to the Committee to replace the relinquished Llynfi Independents seat.

**K Watson**

**Head of Legal and Regulatory Services & Monitoring Officer**

**29 June 2018**

**Contact Officer:** **Mark Galvin / Andrew Rees**  
Senior Democratic Services Officers

**Telephone:** (01656) 643147 / 643148

**E-mail:** [cabinet\\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Postal Address** Bridgend County Borough Council,  
Civic Offices,  
Angel Street,

Bridgend.  
CF31 4WB

**Background documents:** None.