

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 JUNE 2019

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 a change to the membership of the Plaid Cymru Group and to seek approval of the revised political balance.

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 Plaid Cymru Group, whereby Councillor R Stirman will no longer sit as a stand-alone Independent member and has joined the Plaid Cymru Group. 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.

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
Plaid Cymru	4	7.41
Llynfi Independents	3	5.56
Independent (JHT)	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 -0.88 seats and + 0.66 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

No change.

4.3.4 Plaid Cymru

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 a member of the Plaid Cymru Group, as opposed to as an Independent Alliance member.

4.3.5 Llynfi Independents

No change.

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.

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Background documents: None.