

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

16 DECEMBER 2020

### 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 political groups;
- seek approval of the revised political balance;
- receive a nomination from the Independent Alliance Group to sit on the Town and Community Council Forum and for the Plaid Cymru Group to relinquish a seat on the Forum;
- note that Councillor T Thomas will no longer sit on the Appointments Committee as this was a role undertaken in his role as Group Leader of Plaid Cymru which will now be undertaken by Councillor RM James, the Group Leader of Plaid Cymru.

##### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

##### 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 30 September 2020, 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 have been recent changes to the membership of political groups, in respect of the membership of the Plaid Cymru Group and the Independent Alliance Group. Councillor T Thomas has left the Plaid Cymru Group and has joined the Independent Alliance Group. Councillor R Stirman has left the Plaid Cymru Group and will sit as a stand-alone Independent member. Councillor RM James is now the Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group. Councillor J Williams will no longer sit as a stand-alone Independent member and has joined the Independent Alliance Group. Councillor S Aspey has left the Independent Alliance Group and will sit as a stand-alone Independent member.
- 3.3 The changes outlined in paragraph 3.2 above do not affect the seats currently allocated to Councillor Stirman and Councillor Aspey.

#### 4. Current situation / proposal.

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

| Group                | No of Cllrs | Percentage |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| Labour               | 26          | 49.06      |
| Independent Alliance | 10          | 18.87      |
| Conservative         | 8           | 15.09      |
| Llynfi Independents  | 3           | 5.66       |
| Plaid Cymru          | 2           | 3.77       |
| Independent (JHT)    | 1           | 1.89       |
| Independent (RS)     | 1           | 1.89       |
| Independent (KJW)    | 1           | 1.89       |
| Independent (SA)     | 1           | 1.89       |
| Totals               | 53          | 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.
- 4.3 The changes 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  
Independent Alliance Group to gain a seat from the Plaid Cymru Group on the Town and Community Council Forum.

Councillor J Williams and Councillor T Thomas will maintain their seats previously held on Committees, with the exception of the seat held by Councillor Thomas on

the Appointments Committee as this was undertaken in his role as Group Leader – Plaid Cymru

#### 4.3.4 Plaid Cymru

Cllr RM James as Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group to sit on the Appointments Committee.

Plaid Cymru Group to lose a seat to the Independent Alliance Group on the Town and Community Council Forum.

#### 4.3.5 Llynfi Independents

No change.

### **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules.**

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.

### **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 and approve the changes to the membership of Committees as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report.
- (3) receive a nomination from the Independent Alliance Group to sit on the Town and Community Council Forum.
- (4) note that Councillor T Thomas will no longer sit on the Appointments Committee as this was a role undertaken in his role as Group Leader of Plaid Cymru which will now be undertaken by Councillor RM James, the Group Leader of Plaid Cymru.

**K Watson**  
**Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services & Monitoring Officer**  
**7 December 2020**

**Contact Officer:** **Andrew Rees**  
Democratic Services Manager  
**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.