

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 JANUARY 2022

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 the adjusted political balance of the Authority resulting from Councillor Chris Davies being elected at the recent bi-election in the Caerau Ward;
- seek approval of the revised political balance;
- approve the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with political balance rules, as set out in the Appendix to the report and approve the changes to the membership of the Committees as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

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 19 May 2021, at its Annual Meeting, Council approved the political balance and made appointments to Committees to reflect the political make-up of the Authority at that time.

- 3.2 There has been a recent change to the membership of political groups, whereby Councillor Chris Davies (Independent) was elected in the recent bi-election at Caerau. This vacancy had previously been occupied by the late Councillor Philip White.
- 3.3 The change outlined in paragraph 3.2 above, has therefore slightly affected the political balance on Committees as, since his election, Councillor Davies has joined the Llynfi Independent Group.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 In view of paragraph 3.3 above, the following changes to Committee memberships is required, in accordance with a provision of the Local Government Act 1972:-

- 1. Town and Community Council Forum – Labour Group to lose a seat, Llynfi Independents to gain a seat.**
- 2. Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 – Llynfi Independents to gain a seat.**

- 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 accounting for the above changes, are shown at the Appendix to the report.

- 4.3 The Group Leaders of Labour and Llynfi Independents have been asked to announce at the meeting of Council on 19 January 2022 the changes required as detailed in paragraph 4.1.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Impact 2010 Implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of 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 arising from this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 That Council:-

- (1) Notes the outcome of the revised political balance of the Authority resulting from changes to the membership of political groups following the recent election of Councillor Chris Davies at the bi-election in the Caerau Ward;
- (2) Approves the revised political balance (of the Council);
- (3) Approves the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with political balance rules, as set out in the Appendix to the report and the resulting changes to the membership of the Committees, as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

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Background documents: None.