

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 OCTOBER 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 Steven Easterbrook being elected at the recent by-election in the Bridgend Central 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 this 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 18 May 2022, 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 Steven Easterbrook (Bridgend County Independents) was elected in the recent by-election for the Bridgend Central Ward.

3.3 The change outlined in paragraph 3.2 above, has therefore affected the overall political balance on Committees.

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 – Democratic Alliance Group to lose a seat, Bridgend County Independents to gain a seat.**
- 2. Development Control Committee – An Independent Member to lose a seat, Bridgend County 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 taking into account the above are shown within the attached Appendix to the report.

4.3 The Group Leaders of the Bridgend County Independents and the Democratic Alliance together with Councillor Aspey, have been consulted on these changes and are in agreement with them. Both the above Group Leaders have also been asked to announce at the meeting of Council on 19 October 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 Steven Easterbrook at the by-election in the Bridgend Central Ward;
- (2) Approves the revised political balance (of the Council);
- (3) Approves the revised allocation of seats to political groups and in respect of Councillor Aspey in accordance with political balance rules as set out in the Appendix to this report and the resulting recommended changes to the membership of the Committees, as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

K Watson
Chief Officer Legal, HR and Corporate Policy and Monitoring Officer
October 2022

Contact Officer: Mark Galvin
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Telephone: (01656) 643148

E-mail: cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend.
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None.