

Committee: **Council**

Date of Meeting: **18th July, 2024**

Report Subject: **Review of Political Balance and Membership Report**

Portfolio Holder: **Councillor S. Thomas – Leader / Cabinet Member – Corporate & Performance**

Report Submitted by: **Democratic Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
							18/07/24	

1. Purpose of the Report

Following a change to the political make up of the Independent Group, with Cllr Humphreys now a Minority Independent Member, Council are to approve the changes necessary to re-establish the political balance of the membership of the Council's committees.

2. Scope and Background

A review of the political balance and allocation of seats on Committees has been undertaken in accordance with the Political Balance Rules contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended.

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to allocate Committee seats to political groups in proportion to the size of the groups on the Council as far as is reasonably practicable.

The Composition of the Council is:

Groups and Independents	Number of Councillors	Political Balance
Labour	21	63.63
Independent Group	10	30.30
Minority Independent (Cwm Ward)	1	3.03
Minority Independent (Ebbw Vale South)	1	3.03

The Council has 33 Elected Members, however, as two Councillors are not aligned to a political group, proportionality has been recalculated based on a Council size of 31 Members – see below:

Committee	Size	Labour 21 Members	Independent 10 Members	Proportionality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee 	14	9.5	4.5	9:5 (1 Member from each Ward on a political proportionality basis)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General and Statutory Licensing Committee 	11	7.5	3.5	7:4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place Scrutiny • People Scrutiny 	10	6.8	3.2	7:3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate and Performance Scrutiny • Partnership Scrutiny • Democratic Services Committee 	9	6.1	2.9	6:3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and Audit Committee 	9	4	2	4.2 (plus 3 lay members)

Therefore, following discussion with Group Leaders, the changes to the Committee Membership is:

Place Scrutiny Committee – Councillor G. A. Davies to replace Councillor G. Humphreys as the Independent Member on this Committee.

People Scrutiny Committee – to increase the committee numbers from 9 to 10 and for Councillor G. Humphreys to be provided a place on this Committee.

General & Statutory Licensing Committees – Councillor M. Day to replace Councillor G. Humphreys on the General & Statutory Licensing Committees.

Freedom of the Borough Working Group – Councillor L. Parsons to replace Councillor G. Humphreys on the Freedom of the Borough Working Group.

Council are also asked to ratify the following appointments:

To ratify the appointment of Councillor J. Millard as the substitute Member on the Social Services Fostering Panel.

To ratify the following appointments made at the panel meeting held on 3rd July 2024:

- St. Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School – Mr. Stephen Baker
- Willowtown Primary School – Mr. Karl Jones
- Bryn Bach Primary School – Ms. Jade Knight
- Tredegar Comprehensive School – Councillor Tommy Smith

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 *To include Recommendation(s) / Endorsement by other groups, e.g. CLT/Committees/Other groups)*

This report recommends that Council makes changes to the appointments to its committees in accordance with the groups' nominations submitted to this Council meeting.

4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

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5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 *Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)*

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 *Risk including Mitigating Actions*

By following legislation the Council is mitigating any risks to the proportionality of committees.

5.3 *Legal*

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to allocate Committee seats to political groups in proportion to the size of the groups on the Council as far as is reasonably practicable.