

COUNCIL:

23 OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF THE COUNTY CLERK & MONITORING OFFICER

AGENDA ITEM: 15

**REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON
COMMITTEES**

Reason for this Report.

1. The Council under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended in 1991, must review the representation of the different political groups on committees and other relevant Council bodies at its annual meeting, and as soon as practicable after any change in its composition.

Background

2. The legislation requires the Council to allocate committee seats to political groups in proportion, as far as is reasonably practicable, to the size of those groups on the Council.
3. The requirement is for representation to be proportional on each committee and across the relevant committees taken as a whole, subject to Section 15 (5) (b) of the 1989 Act which provides that where the majority of seats on the Council are held by one political group, that group shall have a majority on all bodies to which appointments are made.
5. The Council at its Annual Council on 29 May 2014 established its committees and allocated seats proportionally in line with the relevant provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Section 15) and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The overall total number of seats on Committees is 139.
6. Following the by-election in Llandaff North on 2 October 2014 the composition and proportionality of the Council was reviewed and the revised calculations are set out in Table A.

TABLE A - Composition of the Council as at 3 October 2014:

Groups	Number of Councillors	Proportionality	Number of seats
Labour	45	60%	84
Liberal Democrat	15	20%	28
Conservative	7	9.33%	13
Independent	4	5.33%	7
Plaid Cymru	2	2.67%	4
Ungrouped	2	2.67%	3

7. Appendix 1 sets out the distribution of allocated seats on Ordinary and Scrutiny Committees. The Plaid Cymru Group has agreed not to take up its allocation of seats. The other political groups have confirmed their agreement to this allocation and an updated Appendix 1 will be tabled at the meeting as part of the amendment sheet to reflect any further changes relating to Agenda Item 16.
8. If the Council is unable to make appointments, or matters change during the year, the Proper Officer is authorised to consult with the political groups, and following that consultation, to alter the number and allocation of seats to each group to give effect to the rules on proportionality; and to make appointments as necessary in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.
9. It is open to the Council or other relevant council body to adopt an alternative arrangement to the strict political proportionality for the allocation of seats on Committees and distribute seats on a different basis other than that prescribed by the legislation.
10. Notice of such a proposal must be given in the Council Summons, and a decision would have to be made without any Member voting against the arrangement. This is known as a '*nem con*' vote by the Council.
11. Notice has been given on the Council Summons to effect the alternative arrangement for the distribution of seats on Committees as detailed in Appendix 1.

Legal Implications

12. The legal Implications are set out in the body of this report

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications arising from this report,

Recommendations

The Council is requested to

- (1) note the details of the political balance of the Council as set out in Table 1 of the report; and
- (2) approve the alternative arrangement to the strict political proportionality for the allocation of seats on Committees as set out in Appendix 1 in accordance with Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

MARIE ROSENTHAL
County Clerk and Monitoring Officer
17 October 2014

The following Appendix is attached

Appendix 1 – Distribution of Allocated Seats 2014/15

Distribution of Allocated Seats 2014/15

APPENDIX 1

Committee	Number of Seats	Labour 60%	Lib Dem 20%	Cons 9.33%	Ind Group 5.33%	Plaid 2.67%	Heath Ind 1.335%	Llanrumney Ind 1.335%	Total 100%
Ordinary Committees									
Planning	12	8	2	1	1				12
Licensing	12	8	3	1					12
Public Protection	12	8	3	1					12
Constitution Committee	12	7	3	1	1				12
Employment Conditions	8	5	2	1					8
Council Appeals	9	6	2	1					9
Audit Committee	8	5	1	1	1				8
Democratic Services Committee	12	7	3	1	1				12
Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	9	6	2		1				9
Sub Total	94	60	21	8	5				94
Scrutiny Committees									
Children & Young People	9	6	2	1					9
Community & Adult	9	5	2	1	1				9
Economic & Culture	9	6	2	1					9
Environment	9	6	2	1					9
Policy Review & Performance	9	5	2	1	1				9
Sub Total	45	28	10	5	2				45
Total Seats	139	88	31	13	7				139
		63.31%	22.30%	9.35%	5.03%	0%	-	-	99.99%