
REPORT OF DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SERVICES

POLITICAL BALANCE & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Reason for this Report.

1. To inform Council of a change in the political composition of the Council; and
2. To make appointments to fill current vacancies on Committees in accordance with the approved allocation of seats to party groups and the respective party group wishes.

Background

3. The Council at its Annual Meeting on 28 May 2016 established its committees and allocated seats to party groups in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended.
4. 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. Once the Council has determined the allocation of seats, it is obliged to make appointments so as to give effect to the wishes of the political group to which the seat has been allocated.
5. Appointments to Committees have been made in accordance with the agreed allocations and the wishes of the political groups.

Issues

6. The Political Balance has altered as a result of the resignation of Councillor Susan White in November 2016 and Councillor Margaret Jones December 2016. These resignations occurred within the six month period before the next Council Local Elections. In accordance with statutory requirement a notice of the vacancy of Councillor would be published but the vacancy would remain unfilled until 4 May 2017.

7. Under the relevant legal provisions (referred to under paragraph 3), this changes alters the current allocation of seats on Committees approved at Annual Council 28 May 2016.
8. Based on the revised composition of the Council as from 12 January 2016 the proportional allocation of seats on Ordinary Committees and Scrutiny Committees is as set out in Table A below:

TABLE A - Composition of the Council as at 20 January 2017:

Groups	Number of Councillors	Proportionality	Number of seats
Labour	39	57.35%	77
Liberal Democrat	15	22.06%	30
Conservative	9	13.23%	17
Plaid Cymru	5	7.35	10
Ungrouped *	5	0%	
	73	100%	134

*Four Independent Members not part of any Group – no entitlement to allocation of seats

9. The following Committee vacancies are to be filled by Council on 26 January 2017, in accordance with wishes of the political groups to which the seats are allocated. Nominations will be reported to Council on the amendment sheet.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>No of Vacancies</u>
Planning Committee	2 vacancies
Licensing Committee	2 vacancies
Public Protection Committee	2 vacancies
Audit Committee	1 vacancy
Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	3 vacancies
Democratic Services Committee	1 vacancy
Community & Adult Scrutiny Committee	1 vacancy
Economy Scrutiny Committee	2 vacancies
Environment Scrutiny Committee	2 vacancies
Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny	1 vacancy
Bilingual Cardiff Working Group	1 vacancy
Health & Safety Advisory Group	1 vacancy
Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee	2 vacancies
Standards & Ethics Committee	1 vacancy

10. Under the rules on political balance, the Council may adopt an alternative arrangement to strict political proportionality for the allocation of seats on

Committees and distribute seats on a different basis provided that notice of such proposal is given in the Council Summons, and the alternative arrangement is approved by Council, without any Member voting against the arrangement (referred to as a '*nem con*' vote).

Legal Implications

9. The legal implications are set out in the body of this report.

Financial Implications

10. There are there are no additional financial implications arising from this report that have not been included within the Council's budget for 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is recommended to

- (1) note the change in the political composition of the Council as set out in the report; and
- (2) approve appointments to fill the vacancies on Committees in accordance with the approved allocations and the nominations of the party groups, as set out on the Amendment Sheet.

DAVINA FIORE

Director Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
20 January 2017