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**REPORT OF COUNTY CLERK & MONITORING OFFICER**

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**POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

**Reason for this Report.**

1. To inform Council of a change in the Political balance in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended in 1991.
2. Where a local authority has determined the allocation of political groups on a Committee, the Council in accordance with Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 must give effect to the wishes of the party groups with regard to the identities of the persons who are nominated by that Group to take up existing vacancies on Committees.
3. In accordance with Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 ('the Measure'), Part 6, Sections 66 to 75 Scrutiny Chairs are allocated on a proportional basis, and appointments are made in accordance with the political group's nominations.

**Background**

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.
5. 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.

**Issues**

6. Notification was received from the Plaid Cymru Group on 25 June 2015 that Councillor Holden had joined the Group with effect from 25 June 2015. This effected a change in the composition of the Plaid Cymru Group.

7. On 30 June 2015 a by Election was held in the Pentyrch Ward and Councillor Gavin Hill-John was elected as a Conservative Group member.
8. The Council at its Annual Council on 21 May 2015 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.

### **Allocation of Seats**

9. The total number of seats on Committees which are subject to the political balance is 139. Based on the revised composition of the Council on 1 July 2015 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 1 July 2015:**

Groups	Number of Councillors	Proportionality	Number of seats
Labour	46	61 33%	86
Liberal Democrat	15	20%	28
Conservative	9	12%	17
Plaid Cymru	3	4%	6
Ungrouped *	2	2.66%	(2)

\*Two Independent Members not part of any Group

9. The proportional allocation of seats, as set out in Table A above, has been discussed with all Party Group Whips at a meetings on 13 July 2015. The Plaid Cymru Group has indicated that it does not wish to take up its allocation of Committee seats, and therefore, these have been distributed as shown in **Appendix A**.
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).
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 A.

### **Committee Membership and Chairs of Committees**

12. Annual Council 21 May 2015 made appointments to Committees in accordance with the agreed political balance arrangements and the wishes of Political groups.

13. Attached as **Appendix B** to the report is the updated Committee Membership list for 2015/16.
14. The following vacancies on Committee are to be filled by Council on 23 July 2015. Nominations from Political groups to these vacancies will be reported to Council on the amendment sheet.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>No of Vacancies</u>
Planning Committee	1 vacancy
Audit Committee	2 vacancies
Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	1 vacancy
Democratic Services Committee	1 vacancy
Children & Young People Scrutiny	1 vacancy
Community & Adult Scrutiny	2 vacancies
Environmental Scrutiny	2 vacancies
Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny	2 vacancies
Bilingual Cardiff Working Group	2 vacancies
Works Council	1 vacancy
Health & Safety advisory Group	2 vacancies
Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee	1 vacancy

15. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 ('the Measure'), Part 6, Sections 66 to 75, makes provision regarding the appointment of scrutiny chairs, requiring a proportional allocation of scrutiny chairs for Councils comprised of several political groups. Scrutiny Committee Chairs are allocated proportionally with the agreement of the Political Groups and the allocation is shown in **Appendix A** of the report.

### **Legal Implications**

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

### **Financial Implications**

17. 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**

That the Council

- (1) notes the details of the political balance of the Council as set out in Table 1 of the report; and
- (2) approves alternative arrangements' for the allocation of seats on each Committee as set out in Appendix A and agreed by Party Group Whips on 13 July 2015;
- (3) notes the Committee Membership as detailed in Appendix B to the report;

- (4) approves any further nominations to vacancies on Committees as contained on the amendment sheet;
- (5) notes the nomination detailed on the amendment sheet received from the Labour Group to the vacancy for Chair of Environmental Scrutiny Committee.

**MARIE ROSENTHAL**  
**County Clerk & Monitoring Officer**  
17 July 2015

Appendix A – Political Balance and Allocation of seats 2015/16 – 1 July 2015

Appendix B – Committee Membership 2015/16

**Distribution of Seats Based on Political Balance 1 July 2015**

**APPENDIX A**

Committee	Number of Seats	Labour	Lib Dem	Cons	Plaid	Heath Ind	Ind Group	Total
<b><u>Committees subject to Political Balance</u></b>								
No of Seats	75/75	46/75	15/75	9/75	3/75	1/75	1/75	75
Percentage		61.33%	20%	12%	4%	1.33%	1.33%	100
Total No Seats	139	86	28	17	6	(1)	(1)	139
<b>Ordinary Committees</b>								
Planning	12	8*	2*	2				12
Licensing	12	8	3	1				12
Public Protection	12	8	3	1				12
Audit Committee	8	5	2	1				8
Constitution Committee	12	7	3	2				12
Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee	9	7**	1**	0***			1***	9
Council Appeals	9	6	2	1				9
Democratic Services Committee	12	7	3	2				12
Employment Conditions	8	5	2	1				8
No of Seats	94	61	21	11			1	94
Percentage		64.9%	22.34%	11.7%			1.06%	100%
<b>Scrutiny Committees – Chairs</b>								
Children & Young People	9	6	2	1				9
Community & Adult	9	5	2	1	0****		1****	9
Economic & Culture	9	6	2	1				9
Environment	9	6	2	1				9
Policy Review & Performance	9	6	2	1				9
No of Seats	45	29	10	5			1	45
Percentage		64.45%	22.22%	11.11%			2.22%	100%
<b>TOTAL NO OF SEATS</b>								
Percentage	139	90	31	16			2	139
Percentage		64.75%	22.302%	11.51%			1.44%	100%

NOTE: \* Seat given up by Lib Dem; \*\* Seat given up by Lib Dem \*\*\* Seat given up by Conservatives; \*\*\*\* Seat given up by Plaid Cymru

Committee	Number of Seats	Labour	Lib Dem	Cons	Plaid	Heath Ind	Rhiw Ind	Total
<b><u>Political Balance not applicable</u></b>								
Standards & Ethics Committee	3	1	1	1				
Bilingual Cardiff Working Group	10	7	1	1	1			
Local Authority Governor Panel	7	3	1	1	1			
Works Council	5	3	1	1				
Health & Safety Advisory Group	5	3	1	1				

### Committee Membership 2015/16

#### Cabinet

(9 Members)

Councillors **Bale (Ldr)**, Bradbury, De'Ath, Derbyshire, Elsmore, Hinchey, Lent (Dpty Ldr), Merry and Patel

#### Ordinary Committees

##### Planning Committee

(12 Members: 8 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats, 2 Conservative)

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed, Burfoot, Gordon, Hudson, Hunt, Lomax (Dep Chr), **Michael (Chr)**, Phillips, Robson and Thorne  
**(1 vacancy Lib Dem)**

##### Licensing Committee

(12 Members: 12 Members: 8 Labour, 3 Liberal Democrats and 1 Conservative)

Councillors Manzoor Ahmed, Boyle, Bridges, Goddard (Dep Chr), Hudson, Kelloway, Derrick Morgan, Murphy, **Parry (Chr)**, Phillips, Simmons and Walsh.

##### Public Protection Committee

(12 Members: 12 Members: 8 Labour, 3 Liberal Democrats and 1 Conservative)

Councillors Manzoor Ahmed, Boyle, Bridges, Goddard (Dep Chr), Hudson, Kelloway, Derrick Morgan, Murphy, **Parry (Chr)**, Phillips, Simmons and Walsh.

##### Audit Committee

(8 Council Members 5 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative and 4 Independent Members Panel)

Councillors Howells, McGarry, Mitchell, Murphy, Dianne Rees and Weaver.  
**(2 vacancies 1 Labour & 1 Lib Dem)**

Mr Ian Arundale, Mr David Hugh Thomas, Prof Maurice Pendlebury and Sir Jon Shortridge

##### Constitution Committee

(12 Members: 7 Labour, 3 Liberal Democrats, 2 Conservative)

Councillors Aubrey, Cowan, **De'Ath (Chr)** Goodway, Gordon, Hinchey, Margaret Jones, Knight, Magill, Dianne Rees, White, and Woodman

### **Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee**

(9 Members: 6 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Conservative)

*(Actual 7 x Labour & 1 x Independent (1 vacancy))*

Councillors De'Ath, Evans, Goddard, Joyce, **Lent (Chr)**, Merry, Sanders and White **(1 vacancy)**

### **Council Appeals Committee**

(9 Members: 6 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats, 1 Conservative)

Councillors Manzoor Ahmed, Bridges, Hinchey, Javed, Lent, Murphy, Dianne Rees, Benjamin Thomas and Woodman

### **Democratic Services Committee**

(12 Members: 12 Members: 7 Labour, 3 Liberal Democrats, 2 Conservative)

Councillors Dilwar Ali, Chaundy, **Clark (Chr)** Goddard, Graham, Hinchey, Hyde, Lomax, Murphy, Dianne Rees and Benjamin Thomas. **(1 vacancy Labour)**

### **Employment Conditions Committee**

(8 Members: 5 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats, and 1 Conservative)

Councillors Aubrey, Bale, Davis, **Hinchey (Chr)**, Margaret Jones, Joyce, Dianne Rees and Walsh.

### **Standards & Ethics Committee**

(9 Members: 1 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative, 5 Non-Council Members and 1 Community Councillor)

Councillors Cowan, Margaret Jones & Phillips

Holly Edward-Davies, Dr James Downe, David Hugh Thomas, Mary Roe, and **Richard Tebboth (Chr)**

Community Councillor John Hughes

### **Local Authority Governor Panel**

(7 Members at least 1 Member each party)

Councillors Chaundy, Ford, Holden, Hunt, **Merry (Chr)**, Phillips and Dianne Rees



## **Scrutiny Committees**

### **Children and Young People**

(13 Members: 6 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats, 1 Conservative and 4 Co-opted – 1CW, 1RC and 2 PG)

Councillors Boyle, Chaundy, **Richard Cook (Chr)**, Gordon, Morgan, Murphy, Dianne Rees and Thorne (**1 vacancy Labour**)

Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative); Mrs P Arlotte (Roman Catholic Representative); Catrin Lewis, Hayley Smith (Parent Governor Representative)

### **Community and Adult Services**

(9 Members: 5 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats, 1 Conservative and 1 Independent)

County Councillors Ali Ahmed, Carter, Chris Davis, **McGarry (Chr)**, Lomax, Sanders and Graham Thomas. (**2 vacancies - 1 Labour and 1 Lib Dem**)

### **Economy and Culture**

(9 Members: 6 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Conservative)

County Councillors Dilwar Ali, Ralph Cook, Govier, Howells, Hyde, Javed, **McKerlich (Chr)**, Stubbs and Weaver.

### **Environmental**

(9 Members: 6 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats, and 1 Conservative)

Councillors Aubrey, Clark, Davis, Lomax, Marshall, Mitchell and Darren Williams. (**2 vacancies Labour**)

### **Policy Review and Performance**

(9 Members: 6 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats, 1 Conservative)

Councillors Cowan, Goodway, **Howells (Chr)**, Hunt, Love, Murphy and Huw Thomas (**2 vacancies 1 Labour and 1 Lib Dem**)

## **Other Committees**

### **Bilingual Cardiff Working Group**

(10 Members at least 1 Member each Party Group)

Councillors Dilwar Ali, Bale, Evans, Goodway, Holden, Howells, Lent and Huw Thomas (**2 vacancies - 1 Labour and 1 Conservative**)

### **Works Council**

Councillors Bale, Hinchey, Dianne Rees and Walsh (**1 vacancy Lib Dem**)

### **Health & Safety Advisory Group**

Councillors Groves, Hinchey (Cabinet Member) and Walsh  
***(2 vacancies Opposition Groups)***

### **Appointments Committee**

To comprise of 5 Members in accordance with the rule on political balance.

### **Disciplinary & Grievance Appeals Committee**

To comprise not less than 3 and not more than 5 members in accordance with the rule on political balance.

### **Joint Committees**

#### **Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee**

(Joint Committee - 5 Cardiff Representatives 3 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative)  
*(Actual 3 x Labour & 2 x Independent)*

County Councillors Cowan, Lomax, Robson & Huw Thomas ***(1 vacancy)***

#### **Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Committee**

(Joint Committee - 2 Cardiff Representatives 2 x Labour)

County Councillor Derbyshire & Hinchey

#### **Regulatory Services Joint Committee**

Councillors De'Ath and Parry

#### **Central South Joint Education Service**

Councillor Merry

#### **Welsh Purchasing Consortium Management Board**

Councillor Hinchey