

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS - REVIEW
MEETING: COUNCIL
DATE: 16 MAY 2024
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE

The Council is required to review at, or as soon as practicable after, the Council's annual general meeting, the representation of different political groups on the bodies to which the Council makes appointments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council approves the report as a review under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to allocate ordinary committees with the numbers as indicated below representing political balance.

Committee	Welsh Labour	Welsh Conservatives	Independent Group	Green Independent Group
Scrutiny (x4) (9)	16	15	3	2
Licensing & Regulatory (12)	6	5	1	0
Planning (16)	8	6	1	1
Democratic Services (12)	6	4	1	1
Governance & Audit (8) (excluding lay members)	4	3	1	0
Aggregate Entitlement (84)	40	33	7	4

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council must determine the allocation to the different political groups of all the seats to be filled by appointment by the Council and exercise its power of appointment to the body concerned to give effect to such wishes about who is to be appointed to the seats on that body which are allocated to a particular group as are expressed by that group.
- 3.2 Sections 15 to 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 ("the 1990 Regulations") lay down requirements designed to ensure that there is political balance on Committees. The rules apply to all ordinary committees, advisory committees, scrutiny committees, the Democratic Services Committee, and other bodies where the Council appoints three or more seats.

- 3.3 At its AGM, the Council is required to review the political make up of its Committees, and determine the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the principles set out in Section 15 of 1989 Act, namely:
- a. not all seats on a Committee should be allocated to the same political group;
 - b. the majority group on the Council should form the majority on the Committee;
 - c. subject to (a) and (b), that the proportion of seats allocated to each political group on the total of all Committees should be the same as the proportion of Council Members who belong to that group; and
 - d. subject to (a)–(c), that the proportion of seats allocated to each political group on each Committee should be the same as the proportion of Council Members who belong to that group.
- 3.4 In certain cases the Council/committee does not have to comply with the statutory requirements. The exceptions are as follows:
- (a) alternative arrangements approved by the Council following notice of the proposed arrangement being included in the agenda for the relevant meeting of Council and without any member of the Council/committee voting against the proposal (s17 and Reg. 20).
 - (b) the committee or sub-committee is established exclusively to discharge functions or to advise in respect of part of the area of the authority and where that area of that part does not exceed one-half of the total area of the authority or the population of that part does not exceed one-half of the total population of the area. In addition, that part must consist of one or more electoral divisions and all the members of the authority who are elected for that electoral division (or those electoral divisions) (and only those members) are entitled to be members of the area committee or sub-committee.
- 3.5 In accordance with s.70 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the appointment of Scrutiny Committee Chairs will be done in accordance with the political balance of the Local Authority (rounded to the nearest whole number).

4. REASONS

To comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

6. CONSULTEES

Cabinet
Group leaders
SLT
Democratic Services

7. AUTHOR:

James Williams

Chief Officer Law & Governance
Monitoring Officer
jameswilliams@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix A - Methodology applied to calculate political balance

Appendix B - Appointments by Council