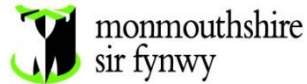


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Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Notice of Reports Received following Publication of Agenda.

County Council

Thursday, 14th May, 2026 at 2.00 pm,
Council Chamber - Council Chamber

Attached are reports that the committee will consider as part of the original agenda but were submitted to democratic services following publication of the agenda.

Item No	Item	Pages
8.	Representation of Political Groups Review	1 - 8

Paul Matthews
Chief Executive

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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION OF POLITICAL GROUPS - REVIEW
MEETING: COUNCIL
DATE: 14 MAY 2026
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 (9) *(x4)	16	15	3	2
Licensing & Regulatory (12)	6	5	1	0
Planning (16)	7	7	1	1
Democratic Services (12)	5	5	1	1
Governance & Audit (8) (excluding lay members)	4	3	1	0
Appointments (5)	2	2	1	0
Aggregate Entitlement (89)	40	37	8	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 a 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

Chief Executive
SLT
Local Democracy Manager

7. AUTHOR:

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Appendices:

Appendix A - Methodology applied to calculate political balance
Appendix B - Appointments by Council

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APPENDIX A

Methodology applied to allocations

1. The legislative requirements in relation to political balance are set out at paragraph 3.3 of the main report.
2. Appointments by the Council

The principles are considered separately for ordinary committees, advisory committees and for other bodies to which appointments must be made. Ordinary committees are committees that make decisions on behalf of the Council. The other form of committee, the advisory committee, is one appointed to advise the Council on any matter relating to the discharge of its functions

(a) Ordinary Committees

According to the draft circular issued in 1990, a suitable sequence for applying the principles will be:

- (i) calculate the total seats with votes on all the ordinary committees;
- (ii) calculate the proportion that each political group forms of the total membership of the authority (and that membership does not include a chairman who is no longer a councillor but remains a member of the Council by virtue of section 26 of the 1972 Act); the "total membership of the authority" does, however, include vacant seats;
- (iii) apply those proportions to the total number of ordinary committee seats to give the aggregate entitlement of each group; the requirement (here as elsewhere) to apply the proportions "so far as reasonably practicable" can be met by rounding up entitlements of a half or more; if this results in a greater aggregate than the number of seats available, the fractional entitlement(s) closest to a half should be rounded in the other direction until entitlements balance the available seats;
- (iv) apply the proportions to the number of members on each ordinary committee to give a provisional entitlement to seats on that committee;
- (v) where the provisional entitlement gives only one group the seats on the committee, adjust the entitlement so that the next largest group has a seat;
- (vi) where one group has a majority of the membership of the Council, but does not have a majority on any committee as a result of the provisional entitlement, increase its share on that committee so that it does have a majority;

- (vii) finally, adjust the seats on each committee so that the total allocated to each group is as near as possible to their aggregate entitlement, while preserving the results reached at steps (v) and (vi)

This sequence of steps has been adopted in this report.

(b) Advisory Committees

The intention of the provision is to ensure that those seats to be filled by councillors are (in the absence of unanimous agreement to the contrary) shared fairly between the political groups.

It is, therefore, necessary for the Council first to decide how many of the seats on each advisory committee are to be filled by members of the Council; the statutory requirements then only apply to those seats; the allocation of those seats can conveniently be made by following steps (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi) above.

(c) Other Bodies

The intention is to ensure a fair distribution of the available seats among the political groups, as a majority group would reasonably be entitled to all the seats where the authority makes only one or two appointments, the duty to allocate seats to political groups only applies where the Council appoints to three or more seats.

The allocation can be made by following steps (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi) above.

3. Appointments by Committees

Where an ordinary committee appoints a sub-committee with executive powers, the allocation can be carried out by following steps (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi) above.

When an advisory sub-committee is appointed, the committee will first need to determine how many seats are to be filled by members of the Council (not just members of the committee). The duty to allocate to political groups then applies only to those seats. The same steps can be followed.

APPENDIX B

Appointments by Council

1. The following committees are appointed by the Council with the number of seats shown:

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Seats</i>
Planning	16
Licensing and Regulatory	12
Governance and Audit (excluding 4 lay members)	8
Place Scrutiny	9
People Scrutiny	9
Performance and Overview Scrutiny	9
Public Services Scrutiny	9
Democratic Services	12
Appointments	5
Total	89

Notes:

- (i) Member/Officer Working Groups are not Committees or Sub-Committees;
 - (ii) the Standards Committee is not subject to the political balance rules;
 - (iii) the Joint Advisory Group (Teachers/LGE) is a Cabinet advisory committee;
 - (iv) political balance rules do not apply to Area Committees;
 - (v) SAC will be allocated in accordance with the Constitution.
2. The rest of this appendix deals with the appointment of committees only.
- (a) Total number of members for the purpose of political balance - 46
 - Labour 21
 - Conservative 19
 - Independent Group 4
 - Green Independent Group 2
 - (b) Provisional statutory entitlement multiplier (i.e. the relevant number of members divided by 46):
 - Labour 0.456
 - Conservative 0.413
 - Independent Group 0.086
 - Green Independent Group 0.043

(c) Aggregate entitlement of seats (i.e. 89 multiplied by the relevant figure in paragraph (b) above):

Labour	40.584
Conservative	36.757
Independent Group	7.654
Green Independent Group	3.827

Rounding up/down gives:

Labour	40
Conservative	37
Independent Group	8
Green Independent Group	4

Where the Council makes appointments of three seats or more to other bodies, the political balance rules apply, and appointments will be made in accordance with paragraph 3.3 of the main report, taking into account the methodology in Appendix A and applying ratios above.