

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

SUBJECT: PLANNING COMMITTEE SEAT ALLOCATION
MEETING: COUNCIL
DATE: 19 September 2019
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE

A decision is required on the allocation of seats across for the Planning Committee to ensure that quorum is achieved and decisions are legal and effective.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council nominates and votes on 2 Councillors to join the Planning Committee to fill the 2 vacant seats. Owing to the need for political balance, no Group may take both seats.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Seats on Council Committees are required by law (Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended) to represent the overall political balance of the Council. To that end a Representation of Political Groups Report is submitted to Council in the first meeting after the Annual Meeting each year. The last such report was considered and approved by Council on 16 May 2019.
- 3.2 Council approved within that report the following calculation and so allocation of the 16 seats on the Planning Committee:

Group	Seats on Council (a)	Ratio Calculation (b) (a/43)	Planning Calculation (b x 16)	Seats on Planning Committee (rounded)
Conservative	25	0.581	9.302	9
Labour	10	0.232	3.721	4
Independent	5	0.116	1.860	2
Liberal Democrats	3	0.069	1.116	1

- 3.3 Since that vote the Independent Group has been unable to fill their allocation.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 The quorum requirement for Planning Committee is more stringent than other meetings (50%), which places additional pressure on attendance, and declarations of interest can reduce voting Members further on some matters. Recently, a decision had to be postponed as the Committee fell below quorum.
- 4.2 The risk of an inquorate meeting can be reduced through the reallocation of the 2 Independent Group seats. This is permitted by s15 of The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 which places the responsibility of reallocation with the Council.

4.3 There remains an overarching requirement to keep the Committee as politically balanced as possible; therefore it is required that Council not allocate both seats to the same Group.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

6. CONSULTEES

Political Group Leaders
SLT
Head of Planning

7. AUTHOR:

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