

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING: 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2018

**ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES**

Prior to the Annual Meeting in 2015, some Leaders raised issues/concerns regarding the potential anomalies which occur in looking at Committees on a 'line by line' basis. That, in turn, resulted in officers giving further, and careful, attention to the matter ahead of the 2015 Annual Meeting.

It had become increasingly difficult to track the anomalies resulting from the various adjustments which had become necessary over the years as a result of political changes. Consequently, a revised political balance table, designed to reflect accurately the various parties' entitlement to seats was drawn up. Council also considered, and approved, the process to be followed at the Annual Meeting to bring about "as far as practicable", a reflection of overall political balance across individual, and all, Committees.

As part of the above, the opportunity was taken to give specific consideration initially to the allocation of seats across the five Scrutiny Committees. It is considered prudent to do this for a variety of reasons, including:

- the various references in existing, and emerging, legislation and White Papers to the importance of Scrutiny within Councils and their decision-making processes
- statutory guidance which reinforces the associated legislative provisions by stating that Overview and Scrutiny Committees should be politically balanced
- to illustrate that overall political balance is reflected as accurately as possible across the five Scrutiny Committees.

The "true" entitlement to seats on Scrutiny Committees for each Group in 2018/19 remains (as was the case in 2017/18):

- Conservative – 25.53 (rounded up to 26)
- Labour – 14.90 (rounded up to 15)
- Plaid Cymru – 4.26 (rounded down to 4)
- Llantwit First Independents – 4.26 (rounded down to 4)
- Councillor Mahoney – 1.07 (rounded down to 1).

The apportionment of seats in 2018/19 will, therefore, remain as:

- Conservative – 26
- Labour – 15
- Plaid Cymru – 4
- Llantwit First Independents – 4

- Councillor Mahoney – 1.

In essence, both the Plaid Cymru and Llantwit First Independents Groups will each be required to “give up” a seat on one Scrutiny Committee (to arrive at their “true” entitlement), with 1 seat falling to the Conservative Group and 1 to Councillor Mahoney.

Once the above process has been completed, certain variations will exist across the remaining allocations in the overall political balance table. As indicated above, Council therefore agreed the process by which the various Groups would take up any unallocated seats (the process was set out in full in the report before the Annual Meeting 2015 and was agreed by Council).

The current overall political table is attached as Appendix B.

**N.B. For clarification, all the adjustments required as described above were made at / following last year’s Annual Meeting. The existing membership of all Committees, therefore, reflects the appropriate allocation of seats.**