

## Political Balance Position

Updated 18 September 2020

The tables below summarise the position for each of the committees. The third column headed *Political Balance* shows the actual number of seats each Group is entitled to have on the committee.

Changes to committee memberships can occur at any time and the Groups are encouraged to ensure that each committee has a full contingent of members throughout the year. A general review of the political balance of the committees is undertaken annually to re-balance committees for the start of the new municipal year in May.

Cabinet	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	0	N/A
Independent	4	N/A
Conservative	4	N/A
Plaid Cymru	0	N/A
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The Council's Constitution had offered seats on Cabinet to every political group with 5 or more members, with seats allocated in proportion to the size of the group. In February 2019 Council amended the Constitution by removing the requirement for Cabinet to be politically balanced, allowing the Leader to appoint Cabinet members without applying the rules of political balance.</p> <p><b>Action: None</b></p>		

Corporate Governance & Audit Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	2	1 or 2
Independent	1	1 or 2
Conservative	2	2
Plaid Cymru	1	1
<p>Comments: The membership of the Corporate Governance &amp; Audit Committee is 6 councillors politically balanced plus a lay member.</p> <p>The constitutional requirement for the Vice Chair of Council to sit on the Corporate Governance committee and the restriction prohibiting Corporate Governance Committee members from being members of a Scrutiny Committee were removed with the adoption of the new Council constitution.</p> <p>Members of the committee may not be Chair of Council or a Cabinet member.</p> <p>Currently, the Labour and Independent Groups have the same number of members with 11 in each Group.</p> <p><b>Action: None required but see the comment above regarding the Labour and Independent Groups.</b></p>		

Communities Scrutiny Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	3	3
Independent	2	3
Conservative	4	3
Plaid Cymru	2	2
Comments:  <b>Actions: Independent Group to nominate 1 member following which the Conservative Group to withdraw 1 member.</b>		

Partnerships Scrutiny Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	3	3
Independent	2	3
Conservative	4	3
Plaid Cymru	2	2
Comments:  <b>Actions: : Independent Group to nominate 1 member following which the Conservative Group to withdraw 1 member</b>		

Performance Scrutiny Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	3	3
Independent	2	3
Conservative	4	3
Plaid Cymru	2	2
Comments:  <b>Action: Independent Group to appoint 1 member. Following which the Conservative Group to withdraw 1 member.</b>		

Planning Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	4	5
Independent	5	5
Conservative	7	7
Plaid Cymru	4	4
<p>Comments: Welsh Government Regulations in 2017 mean that two members representing the same ward cannot both sit on the Planning Committee at the same time. Council agreed in May 2017 for Group Leaders to be given the responsibility for resolving multi-member ward nominations and if there is a failure to agree a single nomination none of the nominations would be accepted onto the Committee.</p> <p><b>Actions: The Labour Group to nominate 1 additional member. For multi-member ward councillors this is to be in consultation with the other groups to comply with the 2017 Regulations.</b></p>		

Licensing Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	3	3
Independent	3	3
Conservative	3	3
Plaid Cymru	2	2
<p>Comments:</p> <p><b>Actions: None.</b></p>		

Democratic Services Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	3	3
Independent	1	3
Conservative	4	3
Plaid Cymru	2	2
<p>Comments:</p> <p><b>Actions: Independent Group to nominate 2 members, following which the Conservative Group to withdraw 1 member.</b></p>		

Welsh Language Steering Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	2	3
Independent	2	3
Conservative	3	3
Plaid Cymru	2	2

Comments: This Committee was established by full Council on the 6 December 2016.

The membership of this committee is 11 councillors, politically balanced, and where possible to include the lead Cabinet member with responsibility for Welsh language issues (the lead member will count towards the political balance calculation). The aim of the Committee is to provide a public forum and steer to support the Welsh language strategy in Denbighshire.

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts is the lead member for the Welsh Language and a member of the committee.

**Actions: Labour Group and Independent Group to appoint 1 member each.**

Joint Consultative Committee for Health and Safety and Employee Relations	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	2	1 or 2
Independent	1	1 or 2
Conservative	2	2
Plaid Cymru	1	1

Comments: This is an internal consultative forum of employer and trade union representatives on staffing and health and safety issues. Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 abolished LJCC and the Corporate Health, Safety & Welfare Committee replacing it with the JCC for HSER.

The employer-side membership is 6 elected councillor members appointed on a politically balanced basis, including at least one Cabinet Member (preferably with responsibility for HR and / or health and safety matters), plus two Officers. These Officers to be the Chief Executive or Corporate Director and the Head of HR.

Currently, the Labour and Independent Groups have the same number of members with 11 in each Group.

**Action: No further action required but see the comment above regarding the Labour and Independent Groups.**

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	2	2
Independent	0	2
Conservative	2	3
Plaid Cymru	1	1
<p>Comments: This committee is a statutory committee advising on RE provision in schools.</p> <p><b>Action: Independent Group to appoint 2 members. Conservative Group to appoint 1 member.</b></p>		

Conwy & Denbighshire Public Services Board Joint Scrutiny Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	2	2
Independent	2	2
Conservative	3	3
Plaid Cymru	1	1
<p>Comments: This formal joint Scrutiny committee with Conwy establish in October 2018 has 16 non-Cabinet members with 8 members from each council.</p> <p><b>Action: None.</b></p>		

Appeals and complaints Committee	Current Membership	Political Balance
Labour	3	3
Independent	2	3
Conservative	3	3
Plaid Cymru	2	2
<p>Comments: This appeal 'committee' is a pool of members which could be called upon in exceptional circumstances where it was felt that a panel involving members would be appropriate, for example in relation to appeals relating to schools.</p> <p><b>Actions: None.</b></p>		

