

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 26 July 2022
Report Subject	Political Balance
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It was agreed at the Annual Meeting that a revised political balance calculation would be brought to this meeting. There have been changes to the composition and number of groups since that meeting, and the new Climate Change Committee has also been added to the list of Committees bringing the total number of seats to 135.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the attached political balance allocation is agreed.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	POLITICAL BALANCE CALCULATIONS
1.01	As explained at the Annual Meeting seats on the politically balanced Committees must be shared in proportion to the respective size of each group. The Council also <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) seeks wherever possible to allocate seats in accordance with the expressed preference of Councillors; and b) “disregards” the employment Committees which rarely, if ever, meet
1.02	The Annual Meeting agreed to create a Climate Change Committee which brings the total number of seats across all Committees to 135. There have been changes to the composition and number of groups, with a new group being created.

1.03	<p>Each group expressed the preference of its members and it was possible to allocate most seats in accordance with those preferences.</p> <p>The allocation of seats agreed by Group Leaders is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
1.04	<p>As mentioned in the Annual Meeting report on political balance, the statute on political balance creates a unique legislative veto where the rules are not strictly followed. Our local convention of disregarding the so called employment Committees from the political balance calculations is technically a departure from the rules, though for good reasons. Therefore the attached allocation of seats can only be approved if no Councillor votes against it.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None arising from this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	All Councillors have been consulted through their groups (and the unaligned Councillor through officers). The Group Leaders have been consulted and agreed the attached allocation.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The Council's approach to political balance ensures that each Committee consists of Councillors with an interest in its terms of reference. This helps to ensure higher levels of attendance and input. It also ensures that all committees have a broader spread of membership which contributes to the diversity of views within its membership. All these factors strengthen the quality of decision making.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - agreed allocation of seats.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer (Governance) Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	None.