

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2014**

REPORT BY: **HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUBJECT: **REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To review the Council's political balance calculations following the by-election resulting in the election of Councillor V Perfect.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990 contain rules to allocate committee places to the political groups in accordance with their strengths on the Council.

2.02 The statutory rules provide that:-

1. There must be no one group committees.
2. Where there is a majority group it is entitled to a majority upon every committee (this does not apply if the largest group does not have an overall majority).
3. The total number of seats allocated to each political group should be (in so far as is practicable) in the same proportion as those groups strengths upon the full Council.
4. Each committee should (so far as it is practicable) have the same proportional division between political groups as is represented upon the full Council.

2.03 On the 22 May 2014 a by-election was held for the Flint Trelawny seat previously held by Trefor Howorth. Councillor V Perfect was elected and joined the Labour Group on the Council increasing its membership to 31 of the 69 current members.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Attached as Appendix 1 is a table showing the revised calculations leading to the Labour Group having one extra committee place and the Independent Group one less committee place. Appendix 2 shows how this can be achieved with minimal change to the allocations made at the annual meeting on the 20 May 2014. The Labour Group have

gained a seat on Lifelong Learning at the expense of the Liberal Democrat Group. This gives the Labour Group the same number of seats on all the Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

- 3.02 The Independent Group have lost a seat on Social & Health Overview & Scrutiny with the Liberal Democrats gaining a seat.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 The Council is recommended to agree the revision to political balance shown in Appendix 2.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 With the political Group Leaders and their deputies.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 With the political Group Leaders and their deputies.

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01 Appendix 1 - Calculations table
Appendix 2 – Political Balance Table

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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