

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2014**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER, GOVERNANCE**

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 D Roney.

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 31 July 2014 a by-election was held for the Mostyn seat previously held by Patrick Heesom. Councillor David Roney was elected and subsequently joined the New Independents Group on the Council increasing its membership to 8 of the 70 current members.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Attached as Appendix 1 is a table showing the revised calculations leading to the New Independents Group having an extra 2 committee places with both the Independent Alliance and Conservatives losing one committee place each.

3.02 As there have been no changes to the overall number of seats allocated to the Labour, Liberal Democrats and Independent Groups there is no need to alter the individual committee places allocated to those groups.

3.03 The fourth statutory rule listed in paragraph 2.02 means that the Independent Alliance Group should lose one of its three places on the Community Profile & Partnership Overview & Scrutiny Committee. With this place being reallocated to the New Independents Group that would leave the Conservative Group needing to lose one committee place to the New Independents Group. There are various possible options to achieve this and three are detailed in the appendices attached.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 The Council is recommended to agree one of the possible options shown in Appendix 2 to reflect the change in the Council's political balance.

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 – Calculation Table
Appendix 2 – Political Balance Options

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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