

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**DATE:** **TUESDAY, 14 APRIL 2015**

**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 a Member joining the Independent Alliance Group from the Liberal Democrat Group.

**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 25 March 2015 a Member joined the Independent Alliance Group from the Liberal Democrat Group and the Leader of the Independent Alliance Group has asked for the political balance calculations to be reviewed.

**3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Attached as Appendix 1 is a table showing the revised calculations leading to the Independent Alliance Group gaining 3 committee places with the Liberal Democrat Group losing 3 committee places.

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

3.03 Attached as Appendix 2 is a table showing how the new political balance can be reflected on the Council's Committees in accordance with the rules in paragraph 2.02 above. The fourth of those rules requires the Liberal Democrats to lose a seat to the Independent Alliance on both the Corporate Resources and Licensing Committees. In Appendix 2 the third seat the Liberal Democrats lose to the Independent Alliance has been shown on the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee but the rules in paragraph 2.02 allow other options whereby the Liberal Democrats could lose a seat to the Independent Alliance on either the Environment or Community Profile & Partnership Scrutiny Committees instead of Social & Health.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 The Council is recommended to agree the changes 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**

With the political Group Leaders and their deputies

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Calculation Table  
Appendix 2 - Political Balance Option

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

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