

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT**

**COUNCIL
13th July 2022**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC
SERVICES - Mr. Craig Griffiths.**

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

**CHANGES TO POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to
 - authorise changes to the allocation of seats on council committees to the political groups;
 - authorise appointment of Community Councillors on the Standards Committee
 - identify member ‘champions’ for relevant subject matters.

Background

Amendments to Committee and Outside Body Membership

2. Following the Port Talbot ward election that took place on the 23rd June 2022, changes are required to the allocation of seats between political groups (as now shown in Appendix 1) and to the membership of certain committees and outside bodies.
3. To implement these requirements, Group Leaders have notified the Head of Legal and Democratic Services of changes that they propose should be made to the membership of committees specified below:

(a) Labour Group Amendments

- That Cllr Sonia Reynolds is removed as a member of the Democratic Services Committee
- That Cllr Saifur Rahaman be appointed as a member of the Democratic Services Committee.
- That Cllr Saifur Rahaman be appointed the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee.
- That Cllr Saifur Rahaman be appointed as a member of the Environment, Regeneration and Street-scene Scrutiny Committee.
- That Cllr Sharon Freeguard be appointed as a member of the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee.
- That Cllr Sharon Freeguard be appointed as a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority.
- That Cllr Mike Harvey be appointed as a member of the Special Appointments Committee.
- That Cllr Mike Harvey be appointed as a member of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Governance and Audit Committee
- That Cllrs Stephanie Lynch, Mike Harvey and Rob Jones be appointed as members of the Swansea Bay Port Authority.

(b) Plaid Cymru Amendments

- That Cllr Andrew Dacey is removed as a member of the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee.
- That Cllr Heath Davies is removed as a member of the Environment, Regeneration and Street-scene Scrutiny Committee.

(c) Independent Group Amendments

- That Cllr Scott Jones is removed as a member of the Special Appointments Committee
- That's Cllr Caroline Lewis is removed as a member of the Cabinet (Policy and Resources) Sub Committee.

- That Cllr Caroline Lewis is appointed as a member of the Pension Fund Committee

(d) Coedffranc Liberal and Green Group Amendments

- That Cllr Cen Phillips be appointed as a member of the Cabinet (Policy and Resource) Sub Committee.

Town/Community Council Nominees to Standards Committee

4. The Local Government Act 2000 and the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 provide specific rules for the composition and operation of a Standards Committee and stipulates that the Standards Committee must have one town/community councilors who is not a county borough councilors. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has received the following nominations for appointment to the Standards Committee from One Voice Wales who approached town and community councils asking for nominees:

Member – Councillor Carolyn Edwards-(Blaengwrach Community Council)

Substitute – Councillor Robin Hill - (Crynant Community Council)

Member Champions

5. The Council identifies Member ‘Champions’ in various subject matters to represent the authority and champion the causes. It should be noted there is no decision making power associated with these roles. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has been notified that the following members have been identified to take on the roles:

Welsh Language – Cllr Marcia Spooner

Scrutiny – Cllr Philip Rogers

Armed Forces – Cllr Chris James and Cllr Wyndham Griffiths

Carers – Cllr Jo Hale

Older People – Cllr Jo Hale

Financial Impact

6. There are no financial impacts.

Integrated Impact Assessment

7. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as the issues within the report relate to constitutional matters only.

Workforce Impacts

8. There are no workforce Impacts.

Legal Powers

9. Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Local Government Act 2000 and the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001

Risk Management

10. There are no risk management issues that require attention.

Consultation

11. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that Council approves:-
 - (a) The proportional allocation of seats to the political groups as contained in Appendix 1;
 - (b) The changes to the membership of committees as contained in paragraph 3 of this report;
 - (c) The appointment of the main and substitute town/community Councillor to the Standard Committee as contained within the report at paragraph 4; and
 - (d) The appointment of Member Champions as contained in the report at paragraph 5.

Reason for Proposed Decisions:

13. To update the Council's membership arrangements.

Implementation of Decisions:

14. The decisions are for immediate implementation.

Appendices:

15. Annex 1- Revised Political Calculation

List of Background Papers:

16. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Constitution.

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