

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY COUNCIL
21st January, 2015

REPORT BY: Solicitor to the Council

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Committee Chairs

REPORT FOR: Decision and Information

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following the creation of a new political coalition within the Council there are consequent implications which the Council needs to consider. The only change which is necessary at this time is to appoint a Chair of the People Scrutiny Committee arising from the resignation of County Councillor Wynne Jones who has been appointed as a member of the Cabinet.
- 1.2 The appointment of the Chairs of the 2 Scrutiny Committees needs to be in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the Measure)
- 1.3 Depending upon the circumstances the Measure provides for alternative appointment arrangements.
- 1.4 There is every indication that the appointment will be made by the relevant political groups.
- 1.5 Without oversimplifying the position the legislation provides that in situations such as those which exist in Powys in terms of the number of groups and scrutiny committees the allocation of scrutiny committee chairs is based firstly on working out the proportion of chairs which go to the "Executive" group(s) based on the proportion which the members of the Executive group(s) bear to the overall membership of the council.
- 1.6 The chairs left over after this first exercise are allocated to the "Opposition" group(s). A possible alternative under the Measure would be for both chairs to be allocated to the "Opposition" groups provided this had cross group support.
- 1.7 The current position is that in accordance with the Measure, the Executive Groups are entitled to one of the scrutiny chairs and therefore the remaining 1 chairs is to be filled by Opposition Groups (**See Appendix 1**). The largest Opposition Group (the Welsh Conservatives) has the first entitlement to a scrutiny chair.
- 1.8 The Council is required to allocate the 2 scrutiny chairs to the political groups as indicated above and to note the appointment of Chairs by those groups as follows:**

People Scrutiny Committee Executive Groups	County Councillor
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<u>Environment, Infrastructure and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee</u> Welsh Conservatives	County Councillor R.G. Thomas
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This will require a proposer and seconder.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To allocate the 2 Scrutiny Committee Chairs to the Political Groups as set out in paragraph 1.8, and to note the political groups' appointments in respect of Chairs.	To comply with statutory requirements (including those concerning the need for political balance) and the Council's Constitution in relation to the allocation and appointment of committee seats and Chairs.

Person(s) To Action Decision:	Steve Boyd, Cabinet Manager		
Date By When Decision To Be Actioned:	21 st January, 2015		
Relevant Policy (ies):	Council's Constitution.		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Wyn Richards Scrutiny Manager	01597 826375	01597 826220	wyn.richards@powys.gov.uk

Allocation of Scrutiny Committee Chairs – Measure Provisions.

Step 1.

Percentage size of “Executive” Group(s) as a proportion of the Whole Council (73 Members):

Group Name	No in Group	Percentage of Whole Council
Non-Political Group	8	10.96%
The Independent Group	15	20.55%
Powys Independent Alliance	24	32.88%
Total	47	64.39%

Step 2.

Entitlement of “Executive” Group(s) to proportion of 2 seats.

64.39% of 2 seats = 1.29 seats.

If less than whole number then Rounding Down is required.

Entitlement = 1 seat.

Step 3.

As there is an entitlement of 1 seat for the “Executive” Group(s) the 1 remaining seat therefore is to be allocated to “Opposition” Groups based on the proportion size of individual groups to the Whole Council (73 Members):

Group Name	No in Group	Percentage of Whole Council
Welsh Conservatives	10	13.70%
Welsh Liberal Democrats	8	10.96%
Welsh Labour	6	8.22%

Step 4.

Entitlement of “Opposition” Groups to proportion of 1 seat(s) (number of seats multiplied by percentage in step 3):

Group Name	Entitlement (1 seats multiplied by percentage in step 3)	Rounding Up.	Ranking
Welsh Conservatives	0.137	0	(1)
Welsh Liberal Democrats	0.110	0	(2)
Welsh Labour	0.082	0	(3)

Entitlement:

Executive Group(s) – 1 seat
Conservative Group – 1 seat

15/01/2015