

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY COUNCIL – 20TH APRIL, 2016

REPORT BY: Solicitor to the Council

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Committee Chairs

REPORT FOR: Decision and Information

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following a change to political group numbers recently there is a need to revisit the appointment of the Chair of the Place Scrutiny Committee, as due to the change, the Welsh Conservatives and the Welsh Liberal Democrats have equal membership numbers.
- 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). Depending upon the circumstances the Measure provides for alternative appointment arrangements. There is every indication that the appointment will be made by the relevant political groups.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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 chair is to be filled by Opposition Groups (**See Appendix**). Due to the equality of numbers in both the Welsh Conservatives and Welsh Liberal Democrats Groups, an agreement has been reached by the two groups resulting in the entitlement to the Place Scrutiny Committee chair falling to the Welsh Liberal Democrats Group.
- 1.6 The Council is required to allocate the Place Scrutiny Committee chair to the political groups as indicated above and to note the appointment of Chair by the Welsh Liberal Democrats Group as follows:**

Place Scrutiny Committee Welsh Liberal Democrats	County Councillor K.W. Curry.
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This will require a proposer and seconder.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To allocate the Place Scrutiny Committee Chair to the Welsh Liberal Democrats Group as set out in paragraph 1.6, and to note the political groups' appointment in respect of Chair.	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:	Wyn Richards, Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services		
Date By When Decision To Be Actioned:	20 April, 2016		
Relevant Policy (ies):	Council's Constitution.		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
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