

Political Balance Appointments to Brecon Beacons National Park Committee

1. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP) comprises 24 members; 8 nominees of the Assembly and 16 appointees from constituent Local Authorities.
2. The Local Authorities appointing to the BBNP are as follows:-

| <u>Authority</u> | <u>Number of Members Appointed</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Powys | 8 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 1 |
| Carmarthenshire | 2 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 1 |
| Monmouthshire | 2 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | 1 |
| Torfaen | 1 |
| | 16 |

3. The BBNP itself is not required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to be politically balanced but Local Authorities appointing to it must make appointments which are politically balanced.
4. As a “Body” to which the 1989 Act political balance regime applies the Council is required to undertake the same review, allocation of seats and appointments process as undertaken for its own committees.
5. Whilst the Environment Act 1995 provides that a Council “shall have regard to the desirability of appointing Members of the Council who represent electoral divisions situated wholly or partly within the relevant Park” the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that appointments by Local Authorities must be politically balanced.
6. The Minister has asked Local Authorities to have regard to the attached protocol when making appointments to National Park Authorities.
7. This protocol, however, does acknowledge that meeting the political balance requirements may constrain how far the principles in the protocol can be fully applied.
8. The allocation of the 8 seats on the National Park to the Political Groups in order to satisfy the political balance requirements will be undertaken as though the allocation were in respect of an 8 Member committee.
9. The outcome of that exercise and the identity of the 8 individual Members nominated to sit on the National Park Authority by their respective Groups is set out in the report. The Council is requested to make the allocation of seats and individual appointments in accordance with the report.