

# CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

## Democratic Services Committee 05 September, 2022

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Head of Legal Services

**SUBJECT:** Representation on Committees

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider whether there is a need to amend the numbers of Members sitting on Committees following the reduction in the overall numbers of Members from 73 to 68.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The allocation of the numbers of seats on the Council's Committees is based on a formula which provides (as far as possible) representation in proportion to the size of the political group as a percentage of the overall numbers on Council, so for example a political group with numbers which equates to 50% of the size of the Council would be allocated 50% of seats on a committee
- 2.2 With the election of the new Council in May came the implementation of the changes to the Council's electoral divisions effectively reducing the Councillor numbers from 73 to 68. The Council has also seen a significant change in its membership with more Councillors having other employment as well as undertaking the role of Councillor. This has led to some difficulties for new Councillors in being able to undertake their various responsibilities. In addition, the current numbers of Members sitting on committees is based on a Council of 73 and has not been amended to reflect the reduced numbers and has caused some difficulties for political groups in filling their allocation of seats. Group Leaders suggested following the election that a review of seats on committees was required.
- 2.3 As it is early in the new term of Council, it is probably appropriate for a review to be considered. The current numbers of Members sitting on Committees are as follows:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Co-Opted Members</b>
Planning, Taxi Licensing, Rights of Way	21	0
Health and Care	14	0
Learning and Skills	14	4
Economy Residents Communities	14	1
Employment Appeals	14	0
Democratic Services	14	0
Licensing Act 2003	14	0
Finance Panel	9	1
Governance and Audit	6	3
Pensions and Investment	5	0

- 2.4 As the numbers for the Finance Panel and the Governance and Audit Committee have only recently been revised and come into operation from May, and as the number of the Pensions and Investment committee is small, it is not considered that there should be any change to these three committees.
- 2.5 In the circumstances, the Committee is asked to consider whether or not it would like officers to undertake a review of the numbers sitting on committees ( with the exception of Finance Panel , the Governance and Audit Committee and the Pensions and Investment committee ). Any such review would include taking the views of Chairs and Members of each Committee and obtaining some benchmarking data from other Welsh Local Authorities ( if possible) .
- 2.6 The Committee is asked to consider:
- (i) Whether or not there is a need to review the numbers of seats on Committees ( with the exception of Finance Panel, the Governance and Audit Committee and the Pensions and Investment committee ) .
  - (ii) If the response to (i) is yes, to authorise officers to (a) commence discussions with Chairs and Members of the Committees; (b) obtaining benchmarking information if possible and (c ) to report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<p>1. To decide whether or not there is a need to review the numbers of seats on Committees ( with the exception of Finance Panel , the Governance and Audit Committee and the Pensions and Investment committee).</p> <p>2. If the response to 1 is yes, to authorise officers to (a) commence discussions with Chairs and Members of the Committees; (b) obtaining benchmarking information if possible and (c ) to report back to the Committee at its next meeting.</p>	<p><b>To consider revising the numbers of seats on the Council's Committees following the reduction in the size of the Council from 73 to 68 Members.</b></p>

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>			
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>N/A</b>
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Clive Pinney</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	<b>As soon as possible</b>

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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**