

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to:	Council
Date of meeting:	27 January 2022
Title:	Number of Councillors on each Committee from May 2022
Purpose of the report:	To consider the number of Councillors on each Committee from May 2022
For:	Decision
Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ray Quant MBE Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Legal and Governance, People and Organisation and Democratic Services

Introduction

The County of Ceredigion (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2021 (as reported to Council on 21st October 2021) reduces the number of Councillors from 42 to 38 from May 2022.

A reduction in the number of Councillors of almost 10% required a review of the number of Members who sit on each Committee, giving consideration to the demands on each Councillor and ensuring as much as possible, a fair distribution of workload.

The review

A Cross-Party Task and Finish Group was established to consider the implications of the reduction in the number of Councillors on the number of Members on each Committee. The membership of the Task and Finish Group was as follows:

Plaid Cymru	Councillor Bryan Davies Councillor Clive Davies Councillor Gareth Davies
Independents	Councillor Ifan Davies Councillor Keith Evans
Liberal Democrats	Councillor Ceredig Davies (Chair)
Independent Voice	Councillor Hag Harris

The focus of the work of the Task and Finish Group was in relation to the Council's Committees and did not consider other work carried out by Members such as representation on external bodies, school governing bodies, partnerships, regional boards etc.

Consideration was given to the legal requirements for each Committee in the discussions towards forming the recommendations. Each representative also consulted the views of their respective Groups and provided feedback. The

recommendations reflect the discussions of the Task and Finish Group and feedback from the respective political Groups.

The Task and Finish Group did not consider the number of Councillors that is permitted on the Cabinet, as is outlined in the Council's Constitution in Part 2, Article 7 which states:

"The Cabinet will consist of the Leader together with at least 6, but not more than 9, Councillors appointed to a Cabinet by the Leader".

Development Control Task and Finish Group

In consideration of the Audit Wales report on Planning Services, the Development Control Task and Finish Group gave specific consideration to the future size of the Committee from May 2022.

In addition, Regulation 4 of the Size and Composition of Local Planning Committees (Wales) Regulation 2017 requires planning committees to contain no fewer than 11 members, no more than 21 members and no more than 50% of the authority members.

Information was also shared regarding the size of other Planning / Development Control Committees in Wales. That data shows that the percentage of Council members who sit on the Committee varies from 14.67% to 50%, with the average at 27.74%.

Senior Salaries

Although the total number of Councillors will reduce by 10%, we have been advised by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales that the total number of Senior Salaries (Cabinet Members, Leader of the Opposition and Chairs of Committees) will remain at 17. On this basis, the review considered a reduction in the number of Members on each Committee as opposed to reducing the total number of committees.

The role of Chairman and Vice Chairman is not included in the total for senior salaries.

Recommendations

The Cross Party Task and Finish Group regarding the Size of Committees and the Development Control Task and Finish Group recommend the following for the size of committees from May 2022. Changes are recommended to the following Committees:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committees (x4) (Does not include the Co-ordinating Committee);
- Licensing Committee (statutory and non-statutory);
- Development Control Committee.

Committee	Current membership	Proposed future membership	Legislative requirements / regulatory issues
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Overview and Scrutiny Committees (thematic x4)	17	13	Information relating to appointing Chairs of Overview and Committees, political balance and co-opted members is contained in Section 76 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. This does not however stipulate a minimum or maximum number of Members pre Committee.
Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee	10	10	As above. Membership is made up of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees plus a Chair and Vice Chair.
Licensing Committee (statutory and non-statutory)	15	11	Licensing Act 2003 requires that each licensing authority must establish a licensing committee of at least 10 but no more than 15 members.
Development Control Committee	19	15	Regulation 4 of the Size and Composition of Local Planning Committees (Wales) Regulation 2017 requires planning committees to contain no fewer than 11 members, no more than 21 members and no more than 50% of the authority members.
Governance and Audit	6 (plus 3 lay members)	6 (plus 3 lay members)	Decision made by Council 17 th June 2021 as per requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
Democratic Services Committee	6	6	No specific requirements regarding size of committee although the Leader cannot be a member and it must follow Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 – duty to allocate seats to political groups applies.
Charity Trustee Committee	10	10	(Same membership as the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee)

Language Committee	7	7	No legal requirement regarding size of committee.
Ethics and Standards Committee	9 (2 of which are County Councillors)	9 (2 of which are County Councillors)	The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 states that the committee should have not less than 5 nor more than 9 members. (1) Where the total number of members of a standards committee is an even number at least half that number shall be independent members. (2) Where the total number of members of a standards committee is an odd number a majority of that number shall be independent members.
Shortlisting Committee (ad hoc)	7	7	No specific requirements regarding size of committee.

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why *This report does not represent a change in policy or strategy.*

Summary:

Long term: Planning for the long term in compliance with statutory requirements in ensuring an equitable and maintainable workload for Councillors.

Wellbeing of Future Generations: **Collaboration:** Reducing the committee workload will allow greater time and flexibility for Members in supporting residents.

Involvement: Task and Finish established and feeding in views of all Members.

Prevention: To ensure that Members are able to manage their workload.

Integration: Amendments take into account legislation changes and guidance.

Recommendation(s): **That the Council resolves, in accordance with the recommendation of the Task and Finish Groups to approve the following, effective from 5th May 2022:**

- a) To reduce the membership of the Licensing Committee (both the Statutory and non-Statutory Committee) from 15 to 11;
- b) To reduce the membership of the Development Control Committee from 19 to 15; and
- c) To reduce the membership of the four thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees from 17 to 13;
- d) To amend the Council's Constitution accordingly.

Reasons for decision: To ensure that the membership of the Committees reflect the reduction in the number of Councillors and ensure that the Committees remain effective whilst ensuring that the workload is manageable and is distributed as equally as possible.

Overview and Scrutiny: N/A

Policy Framework: Council's Constitution

Corporate Priorities: Supports all of the Council's Corporate Priorities:

- Boosting the Economy
- Investing in People's Futures
- Enabling Individual and Family Resilience
- Promoting Environmental and Community Resilience

Finance and Procurement implications: The proposals are within existing budget.

Legal Implications: None

Staffing implications: None

Property / asset implications: None

Risk(s): None

Statutory Powers:

- The County of Ceredigion (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2021;
- Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021;
- Regulation 4 of the Size and Composition of Local Planning Committees (Wales) Regulation 2017;
- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011;
- Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001;
- Licensing Act 2003;
- Local Government Act 2000;
- Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

- Background Papers:**
- Report to Council regarding The County of Ceredigion (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2021, 21st October 2021;
 - Report to Democratic Services Committee regarding establishing a Task and Finish Group to review the size of Committees, 21st May 2021.

Appendices: None

Corporate Officer: **Lead** Lowri Edwards
Corporate Lead Officer – Democratic Services

Reporting Officer: Lowri Edwards

Date: 1st December 2021