

# **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**



**Thursday, 18th May, 2023**

**7.00 pm**

**Council Chamber  
Thanet District Council  
Margate**

**[www.thanet.gov.uk](http://www.thanet.gov.uk)  
01843 577000**



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Date: 10 May 2023  
Our Ref: Annual Council/Agenda  
Ask For: Gabriella Stewart  
Direct Dial: (01843) 577207  
Email: gabriella.stewart@thanet.gov.uk



You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the Thanet District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent on Thursday, 18 May 2023 at 7.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the business mentioned below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sambler".

Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

To: The Members of Thanet District Council

**FIRE ALARM PROCEDURES:** If the fire alarm is activated, please vacate the offices via the stairs either through the security door to the left of the Chairman or opposite the lifts in the foyer. Please do not use the lifts. Please assemble in Hawley Square on the green. Officers will assist you and advise when it is deemed safe to return to the Chamber.

## **AGENDA**

Item  
No

1. **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR** (Pages 5 - 6)
2. **ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR** (Pages 7 - 8)
3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet or Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2 (iv).

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive any declarations of interest. Members are advised to consider the advice contained within the Declaration of Interest advice attached to this Agenda. If a Member declares an interest, they should complete the [Declaration of Interest Form](#)

6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 11 - 20)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 30 March 2023, copy attached.

Item  
No

Subject

7. **ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL** (Pages 21 - 22)
8. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL** (Pages 23 - 24)
9. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS - EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**  
  
Report to follow
10. **CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARDS 2023/24**  
  
Report to follow
11. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2023/24** (Pages 25 - 32)

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## **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

<b>Annual Council</b>	18 May 2023
<b>Report Author</b>	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
<b>Status:</b>	For Decision
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Key Decision</b>	No

### **Executive Summary:**

The political groups have been invited to submit their nominations for the election of Chair. Council is asked to decide on the appointment.

### **Recommendation:**

That the election of the Chair of the Council be agreed.

### **Corporate Implications**

There are no identified financial implications from this report.

### **Risk Management**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

### **Legal**

The election of Chair must take place at the annual meeting of the Council in accordance with sections 3 and 4 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Equalities Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty:**

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equity and equality considerations that need to be addressed in this report, any Member may be nominated as Chairman of the Council.

## **Corporate Priorities**

None.

### **1.0 Introduction and Background:**

1.1 The constitution of the Council states that:

“The annual meeting will consider the following:-

(ii) elect the Chair of Council;”

1.2 Nominations for Chair of the Council have been invited from the Leaders of the Political Groups and will be announced at the meeting.

### **2.0 Decision Making Process**

2.1 Council is the decision making body.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Reporting to: Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

## **Annex List**

None

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Corporate Consultation:**

**Finance:** Chris Blundell, Director of Corporate Resources & S151 Officer

**Legal:** Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

## **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

<b>Annual Council</b>	<b>18 May 2023</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>No</b>

### **Executive Summary:**

The political groups have been invited to submit their nominations for the election of Vice-Chair. Council is asked to decide upon the appointment.

### **Recommendation:**

That the election of the Vice-Chair of the Council be agreed.

### **Corporate Implications:**

### **Financial and Value for Money:**

There are no direct financial implications.

### **Legal:**

The election of Vice-Chair must take place at the annual meeting of the Council in accordance with sections 3 and 4 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Equalities Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty:**

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equity and equality considerations that need to be addressed in this report, any Member may be nominated as Chairman of the Council.

## **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 The constitution of the Council states that:

“The annual meeting will consider the following:-

(iii) elect the Vice-Chair of Council;”

1.2 Nominations for Vice-Chair of the Council have been invited from the Leaders of the Political Groups and will be announced at the meeting.

## **2.0 Decision Making Process**

2.1 Council is the decision making body.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Reporting to: Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

### **Annex List:**

None.

### **Background Papers:**

None.

### **Corporate Consultation:**

**Finance:** Chris Blundell, Director of Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer

**Legal:** Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer





## **Do I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and if so what action should I take?**

Your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) are those interests that are, or should be, listed on your Register of Interest Form.

If you are at a meeting and the subject relating to one of your DPIs is to be discussed, in so far as you are aware of the DPI, you **must** declare the existence **and** explain the nature of the DPI during the declarations of interest agenda item, at the commencement of the item under discussion, or when the interest has become apparent

Once you have declared that you have a DPI (unless you have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee or the Monitoring Officer, for which you will have applied to the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting) you **must**:-

1. Not speak or vote on the matter;
2. Withdraw from the meeting room during the consideration of the matter;
3. Not seek to improperly influence the decision on the matter.

## **Do I have a significant interest and if so what action should I take?**

A significant interest is an interest (other than a DPI or an interest in an Authority Function) which:

1. Affects the financial position of yourself and/or an associated person; or  
Relates to the determination of your application for any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration made by, or on your behalf of, you and/or an associated person;
2. And which, in either case, a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest.

An associated person is defined as:

- A family member or any other person with whom you have a close association, including your spouse, civil partner, or somebody with whom you are living as a husband or wife, or as if you are civil partners; or
- Any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors; or
- Any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000;
- Any body of which you are in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Authority; or
- any body in respect of which you are in a position of general control or management and which:
  - exercises functions of a public nature; or
  - is directed to charitable purposes; or
  - has as its principal purpose or one of its principal purposes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

An Authority Function is defined as: -

- Housing - where you are a tenant of the Council provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease; or
- Any allowance, payment or indemnity given to members of the Council;
- Any ceremonial honour given to members of the Council
- Setting the Council Tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992

If you are at a meeting and you think that you have a significant interest then you **must** declare the existence **and** nature of the significant interest at the commencement of the matter, or when the interest has become apparent, or the declarations of interest agenda item.

Once you have declared that you have a significant interest (unless you have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee or the Monitoring Officer, for which you will have applied to the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting) you **must**:-

1. Not speak or vote (unless the public have speaking rights, or you are present to make representations, answer questions or to give evidence relating to the business being discussed in which case you can speak only)
2. Withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the matter or immediately after speaking.
3. Not seek to improperly influence the decision.

## Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality

Councillors must declare at meetings any gift, benefit or hospitality with an estimated value (or cumulative value if a series of gifts etc.) of £25 or more. You **must**, at the commencement of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, disclose the existence and nature of the gift, benefit or hospitality, the identity of the donor and how the business under consideration relates to that person or body. However you can stay in the meeting unless it constitutes a significant interest, in which case it should be declared as outlined above.

## What if I am unsure?

If you are in any doubt, Members are strongly advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or the Committee Services Manager well in advance of the meeting.

If you need to declare an interest then please complete the declaration of [interest form](#).

## COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023 at 7.00 pm in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.**

**Present:** Councillor Jason Savage (Chair); Councillors Albon, Ashbee, Austin, Bailey, Bambridge, J Bayford, R Bayford, Boyd, Coleman-Cooke, Crittenden, Currie, Dennis, Dexter, Duckworth, Everitt, Fellows, Garner, Gregory, Hart, Huxley, Kup, Leys, Pat Moore, Paul Moore, Ovenden, Rev. S Piper, Potts, Pugh, Rattigan, Rawf, Rogers, D Saunders, M Saunders, Scobie, Scott, Shrubb, Smith, Tomlinson, Towing, Wallin, Whitehead, Wing, Wright and Yates

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ara, Braidwood, Farrance, Hopkinson, Keen, Nixey, Parsons, L. Piper and Rusiecki.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair proposed, the Vice Chair seconded and Members agreed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 February 2023.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 5. PETITIONS

#### (a) Response to Ramsgate Market Petition

It was noted that the council's response to the petition had been outlined in the agenda.

Members commented that they were pleased with the progress towards reinstating the Ramsgate Market. It was asked whether the communications team could publish more information on the Council website regarding the progress to keep residents informed.

### 6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

#### (a) Question no.1 from a member of the public regarding Southern Water and housing developments

Ms McCourt asked Councillor Ashbee the following question:

'Following the meeting on Tuesday, 14.3.23 Tim McMahon from Southern Water explained that, whilst they cannot reject developments, he said that what they... "could do, need to do and try to do is work with Local Planning Authorities to identify where constraints are so that they can be put into their conditions as part of the developments." How do you know that this occurs for ALL housing developments in Thanet? Whilst they cannot say no to developers, what is the Planning Committee at TDC doing to ENSURE that Southern Water is able to identify any constraints, and advise planning committees BEFORE developments reach the approval stage?'

Councillor Ashbee responded with the following points:

- Utility providers, including Southern Water are consulted on all applications proposing new dwellings so that they can comment on the capacity of drainage and sewerage provision and so that they can recommend any required mitigation actions.
- Required mitigation actions would be covered in any planning consent issued by way of condition.

(b) **Question no.2 from a member of the public regarding listed buildings**

Mr Knibb asked Councillor Pugh the following question:

'Is the Grade Two listed Cinema Organ at Dreamland in good condition? What records do the Council hold concerning recent inspections? Are the current owners being held responsible for its renovation? Is there an officer in charge whose remit is the preservation of listed buildings in Thanet?'

Councillor Pugh responded with the following points:

- Building and site owners are legally required to protect and maintain listed structures in their ownership and it was an offence not to do so.
- The council was able to investigate alleged breaches of listed building control and require specific works or prosecute offences where these are identified.
- However, the council did not have the resources to inspect all listed buildings and structures in the district on a routine basis. The council would investigate any complaints that are raised with the planning enforcement team.
- There had been no complaints received concerning the cinema organ at dreamland.

(c) **Question no.3 from a member of the public regarding community use of future planning developments**

Ms Brown asked Councillor Ashbee the following question:

'What measures are Thanet District Council taking to ensure that conditions are in place with developers as part of planning permission being granted, to secure any school, health centres, playgrounds, roads etc. are included in future developments and that they are up and running for community use?'

Councillor Ashbee responded with the following points:

- As well as consulting with the council's statutory partners about the infrastructure needs resulting from development, both through the local plan process and through individual planning applications, the council also negotiated contributions from developers towards the costs of these requirements.
- This included contributions for health, education, transport, play and leisure provision.
- During development, the council collected these contributions and passed them on to the relevant agency, such as KCC or NHS England, so that they can be spent on the delivery of school, transport, health or other infrastructure.
- The council would be recruiting an additional officer specifically to manage the collection and monitoring of planning contributions to ensure that funding is collected and released when it is due. This would also be reported on through the annual Infrastructure Statement.

## 7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

### (a) Question no.1 from a member regarding the refurbishment of public toilets

Councillor Bailey asked Councillor Kup the following question:

'I note that a work tender has gone out to refurbish the Margate Harbour Arm toilets, which is really good news and not before time.  
Are there any plans to have any of the other public toilets in the District refurbished in a similar way?

I'm thinking in particular, although not exclusively, of the exterior of the Broadstairs Harbour toilets, which are an eyesore in a conservation area.  
I know the Community Payback Team are willing to paint them but they need the rendering made good first.'

Councillor Kup responded with the following points:

- A detailed stock condition survey of public toilet facilities had been undertaken over the winter period. The findings from this survey work are due back in final form in April 2023, and would help to inform the new public toilet strategy. Details of the strategy including proposed actions, routes to funding and timescales would be shared after the local elections.
- Timescales had not been set, but it had been confirmed that the toilets at Broadstairs Harbour will be re-rendered and painted in 2023.

### (b) Question no.2 from a member regarding essential maintenance of the Boundary Park playground

Councillor Crittenden asked Councillor Kup the following question:

'The safety matting under the swings in the children's playground in the highly popular Boundary Park has become worn to the point of dangerous, and the swings have been removed. With less than three months to the start of summer, can the cabinet member please advise when essential maintenance will be carried out to the playground in Boundary Park?'

Councillor Kup responded with the following points:

- The safety matting was regularly inspected as part of the routine in-house play area inspections and annual external inspection by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents). Whilst it was agreed that the matting was nearing the end of its useful life it was not considered to be dangerous.
- It remained the plan to undertake a substantial refurbishment project at the play area upon receipt of funding from Section 106 planning agreements which had been put in place for this purpose. Part of the funding contribution from Boundary Park had already been received with a further funding receipt expected later in 2023.
- It had been agreed that the decommissioned swings and matting should be replaced ahead of the summer season and it had therefore been planned to be carry out this work during April and May 2023 using part of the Section 106 funding which has already been received.

Councillor Crittenden followed up her question by asking if there was any suggestion or idea when the rest of the money was to be received for this project. Also asking whether the ward councillors be consulted on the improvements to Boundary Park?

Councillor Kup responded that he would discuss with officers regarding when the money would be received, and let Councillor Crittenden know when this money was to be expected. It was agreed that it was important to consult with ward councillors on the improvements.

(c) **Question no.3 from a member regarding the funding timetable for the Margate Town Deal**

Councillor Currie asked Councillor Pugh the following question:

‘As the accountable body for the Margate Town Deal, Would the council give members an update on the funding timetable for the selected projects in the investment plan, particularly the Coastal Wellbeing project in my ward Cliftonville West which not only would develop health benefits to the local community but also create new business and commercial opportunities for the area.’

Councillor Pugh responded with the following points:

- All Town Deal projects are to be delivered by the end of March 2026, with timelines for some projects still in the development phase. In terms of the Coastal Wellbeing intervention, the council had engaged external Project Managers and Cost Consultants for RIBA stages 1-3 in relation to the new facilities at Walpole Bay, and were set to procure an architect team for designs.
- Recently there had been the recruitment of a new Coastal Wellbeing Participation and Skills Coordinator who, as well as carrying out stakeholder mapping, engagement and benchmarking, would develop a Participation and Skills Programme around testing new uses to promote health and wellbeing.
- Details of the Town Deal projects including progress and next steps are kept up to date on the Council's website.

Councillor Currie followed up his question by asking that given the original fund had been put into place for areas like Cliftonville, which had not yet benefited from the growth experienced by other more affluent areas, did Councillor Pugh agree that all the projects planned for Cliftonville should be a priority?

Councillor Pugh responded that all the projects in the Town Deal should be a priority. Cliftonville had seen a significant boost in Northdown Road.

(d) **Question no.4 from a member regarding sustainability assessments for developments in Thanet**

Councillor Smith asked the following question:

“Given that TDC published the Call for Sites before Christmas to include the site, yet another recent development application for 95 more homes, was described to me by a Minster resident as” a cynical attempt to buck the Local Plan process”.

This development is proposed just as public transport services, especially in the Villages, are rapidly diminishing. At the same time soaring rents, food and fuel costs are eroding the autonomy of our communities’ most vulnerable members.

Developments like this will add to the number of unsustainable, car-dependent population ‘hubs’, which will further transform the surrounding villages, whose local amenities and services are already under strain.

Will TDC undertake a detailed sustainability appraisal of all such sites in Thanet, to consider access to local services, access to health care, education, employment, health care and leisure facilities, alongside practical transport connections that can counteract this trend?"

Councillor Ashbee responded with the following key points:

- The council completed and published a sustainability appraisal for the sites allocated in the adopted local plan.
- In addition, an assessment of the impact for development on unallocated sites occurs within the determination of individual planning applications.
- As the review of the local plan, extending the plan period forward from 2031 to 2040, a wholly new sustainability appraisal will be completed for the draft proposals, including new development sites proposed.

Councillor Smith followed up by asking a supplementary question, asking how this could be described as sustainable. Given that housing developers are in the business of constructing profitably, in light of recent headlines and media discussion of the housing crisis, what pressure could TDC place on central government to re-establish and develop sustainable plans for the social housing which was needed?

Councillor Ashbee responded that she would love for the council to build all the housing that was needed for all those in the district that needed housing, however this needed land, which was the issue. There had been adjustments to the NPPF, which had not yet been released.

(e) **Question no.5 from a member regarding the cultural investment fund**

Councillor Yates asked the following question:

"It was recently announced that Morecambe Winter Gardens will receive £2.8m from the £60m Cultural Investment Fund to restore their 125-year-old theatre, this was part of an announcement that 70 venues, museums and libraries will receive monies from this fund. Did Thanet District Council make an application for this fund and if they did, have they received any feedback as to why we were not successful, and if they didn't make an application, why not?"

Councillor Pugh responded:

- The Council submitted an application to the Cultural Development Fund for the Theatre Royal, which had unfortunately been unsuccessful.
- Arts Council England did not provide any formal feedback on applications that were unsuccessful.

Councillor Yates asked a supplementary question as followed:

According to the council website TDC will host an open day in April for prospective commercial partners to run the Margate Winter Gardens, was this still the plan and would TDC see potential operators in April 2023?

Councillor Pugh responded that this was the intention of TDC. The programme that had been set out for the Winter Gardens was still on time.

(f) **Question no.6 from a member regarding the progress of the Ramsgate Market**

Councillor Wing asked the following question:

“Could I please have an update on the progress to bring back the Market to Ramsgate Town Centre and could this update also be sent as an email to Ramsgate Town Council, so that key stakeholders are updated on exactly where we are at with this very important matter, for our town and Thanet?”

Councillor David Saunders responded with the following key points:

- Thanet District Council had met with Ramsgate Town Council and kept them updated on a regular basis on the progress towards relaunching the market.
- In mid-February 2023, TDC’s Case Officer met with Councillor Steve Albon on site to discuss how the market could work going forward and potential stall locations and layout.
- Regarding consents, TDC had established that an updated / amended planning consent was not required.
- However, an amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order issued by KCC which governs access to the High Street, King Street and Queen Street may be required, specifically in relation to access times.
- TDC were in the process of drafting a specification for discussion and agreement with our Procurement team with a view to inviting Expressions of Interest (EoI).
- A response regarding the petition submitted to TDC for the reinstatement of the market has been sent to the petitioner, and a report outlining the response had been submitted to the full Council meeting to be held on 30 March 2023.

Councillor Wing followed up with a supplementary question asking whether there was a guarantee that the market would arrive in 2023?

Councillor David Saunders responded that he would make sure everything was done in order to get the procurement team up and running and looking for an operator at the earliest possible opportunity.

## **8. NOTICE OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion that were considered at the meeting.

## **9. LEADERS REPORT**

The Leader, Councillor Ashbee, presented her report to Council, covering the following key points:

- The Leader noted that it had been a great privilege to have been elected as Leader in June 2021.
- Numerous goals had been achieved since June 2021, and there was a feeling that the council was in a much better place than beforehand.
- Personal thanks were given to Chris Blundell during this period. Colin Carmichael was also thanked for joining the council as the Chief Executive, aiding the council into a calmer and more productive state.
- Thanks were also given to group leaders, cabinet members, councillors and officers for their efforts.
- The ferry service in the port of Ramsgate was closer, this was considered of huge potential, and should be utilised to its full potential.
- The Southern Water payment of £100,000 would be utilised for improvements some of the coastal assets.
- Warm and welcome packs had been given out to households in fuel poverty in partnership with Social Enterprise Kent. Each pack contained an electric blanket, an air fryer, draft excluders and other cold weather kit.



## Agenda Item 6

- Earlier in 2022, a defendant has been found guilty of fly tipping bagged waste and household goods in Chatham passage, Ramsgate. It was important to send out the message that TDC had zero tolerance for fly tipping offenders.
- Thanet's 'tentastic' had begun and ran until Sunday 2nd April. This was to encourage people to shop in local town centres with events and activities being organised by local businesses as well as promoting £10 offers.

Councillor Everitt as the Leader of the Labour Group made the following points:

- It was agreed that the council was in a better place than it was in June 2021, there was acknowledgment to the leader in the part she had played in this. However, this wouldn't have been achieved without the previous Labour council administration.
- The choices in 2022 around the senior management had only been available because of the culmination of a long and difficult internal process which established the core facts. This resulted directly in one statutory officer leaving.
- All parties had faced the common challenges of the pandemic.
- The revival of the Ramsgate Port was something that the Labour administration had set in progress, with the Conservative Group bringing this forth and was a good example of cross-party working.
- It was positive that some good came out of the shameful performance of Southern Water. However, this should not distract from the point that the company had failed.
- The warm and well pack were welcomed, however this was noted as a sticking plaster against the gaping wounds caused by the cost of living crisis and austerity.

The Leader responded to Councillor Everitt's comments with the following points:

- Thanks were given to Councillor Everitt for his comments.
- It was agreed that the parties worked well together, this was essential due to the challenging and difficult times which had occurred.
- The council was stronger for going through these challenging times.

Councillor Rev. Piper as Leader of the Thanet Independents made the following points:

- The council had done well distributing money to the right people during the pandemic, but also beyond this period.
- Fly tipping was distressing, and it was agreed that the council should continue with a zero tolerance policy in regards to this.
- The new online booking system for the household waste recycling centre in the district was not good for digital restricted residents.
- Thanks were given to all councillors which had served during the term.

The Leader replied to Councillor Rev. Piper's comments with the following points:

- The distribution of funds was down to councils. Central government did not give enough respect to these councils for the work that was carried out in the work of distribution.
- The accounts team had done tremendous work, with the local authorities being noted as the foot soldiers to central government.
- The household waste recycling centre's website was run by Kent County Council.

Councillor Garner as Leader of the Green and Independent Groups made the following points:

- Thanks were given to the Leader for her hard work.

- It was agreed that the Leader took over during a difficult time, the council was now in a better place than it was.
- Thanks were offered to Chris Blundell, Colin Carmichael and all officers.
- There was still work to do, as seen through the recent reviews of the Berth 4 / 5 and IMO recommendations. It was important to process the lessons learnt, going forth it was necessary to remain vigilant, open and transparent.
- Southern Water had got off lightly from the devastation which had been caused.
- All councillors and candidates running for the upcoming election were wished luck.
- It was of upmost importance for the next administration to look at issues such as safe streets, environmental strategies, support for those communities most affected by the cost of living crisis.

The Leader replied to Councillor Garners comments with the following points:

- The points were taken noted regarding Southern Water, however this was also considered and infrastructure problem.
- Thanks were given to all officers and councillors for all of their hard work.

## **10. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Councillor Reverend Piper, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, presented the report. It was noted that a number of projects had been reviewed, most of these being completed. Projects included the coastal review.

The memorial plaques and monuments project had not produced a final report at the time of the meeting. The delay was due to the waiting for specific guidelines from central government.

Councillor Reverend Piper thanked the members of the Committee and the council officers involved in the Committee.

Members noted the report.

## **11. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Mr Tucker, the Chair of the Standards Committee, presented his report. He noted that from March 2022 – March 2023 no standards complaints had been referred to the investigation stages. Thanks were given to democratic services, officers involved in the standards committee and members on the committee.

Members noted the report

## **12. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Boyd, Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, presented the report. She noted that the Committee continued to offer independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework, the associated control environment and provided robust scrutiny. The Committee had been engaged in external and internal audits.

Thanks were given to members that served on the Committee and council officers.

Members noted the report.

## **13. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE BERTH 4/5 PROJECT**

Councillor Ashbee, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and the following points were noted:

- A review had been undertaken by the East Kent audit partnership.
- Thanks were given to Christine Parker, the head of internal audit, for the thorough review of this project.
- The detailed management response was yet to be formed, however the corporate management team had accepted all nine recommendations in the report.
- There was confidence that the council would learn from the review, and successfully deliver the projects which were upcoming over the following years.

Members commented and made the following points:

- Thanks were given to officers, in particular Mike Humber for their work in the project.
- The matter had not been concluded, it was important to keep up the momentum for the project.
- Information should be shared with both councillors and residents as much as possible.

Councillor Ashbee proposed, Councillor Bob Bayford seconded and members noted the report.

## **14. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR AND THE INDEPENDENT MONITORING OFFICER**

Councillor Ashbee, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and the following points were noted:

- The fundamental recommendation from the Auditors was to commission a report from an independent monitoring officer from another Council who would look into these issues. Quinton Baker from Hertfordshire County Council was appointed.
- Quinton Baker's produced this report in May 2022, and since then this report had been considered by council, with the recommendations being approved.
- The conclusions reached by the IMO in 2021 were not comfortable for the council, highlighting significant disruption in Council/Officer relations as well as relations between senior officers and the need to thoroughly review staffing procedures.
- The previous statutory officers had left the council, and new officers had been appointed to these positions.

Members commented and made the following points:

- It was encouraging to see progress within the report.
- Questioning was raised around whether new and old officers would have similar training in regards to officer and member relations.

The Leader proposed, Councillor Bob Bayford seconded and Members noted the report.

## **15. CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARDS - 2022/23**

### **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

The Leader proposed option 2 in the report, Councillor Bob Bayford seconded and Members agreed.

### **NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES**

## Agenda Item 6

Councillor Ashbee confirmed that there were no new nominations for the Conservative Group.

Councillor Everitt confirmed that there were no new nominations for the Labour Group.

Councillor Reverend Piper confirmed that there were no new nominations for the Thanet Independent Group.

Councillor Garner confirmed that there were no new nominations for the Green and Independent Group.

Meeting concluded: 8.29 pm

## ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

<b>Annual Council</b>	18 May 2023
<b>Report Author</b>	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
<b>Status</b>	For Decision
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Key Decision</b>	No

### **Executive Summary:**

The political groups have been invited to submit their nominations to the election of Leader.

### **Recommendation:**

That the election of the Leader of the Council be agreed.

### **Corporate Implications**

There are no direct financial implications.

### **Risk Management**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

### **Legal**

The election of Leader must take place at the annual meeting of the Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Equalities Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty:

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equity and equality considerations that need to be addressed in this report, any Member may be nominated as Leader of the Council.

## **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 The constitution of the Council states that:

“The annual meeting will, in the year of an ordinary election of Councillors, elect the Leader of the Council for a term of office ending on the date of the Annual Meeting of Council in the year of the next ordinary election of Councillors”.

1.2 The political groups have been asked to submit nominations to the election of Leader. These will be announced at the meeting.

## **2.0 Decision Making Process**

2.1 Council is the decision making body.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Reporting to: Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

### **Annex List**

None

### **Background Papers:**

None

### **Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** Chris Blundell, Director of Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer

**Legal:** Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

## APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

<b>Annual Council</b>	18 May 2023
<b>Report Author</b>	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Key Decision</b>	No

### **Executive Summary:**

The newly elected Leader of the Council will inform Council of their choice of Deputy Leader of the Council.

### **Recommendation:**

This report is for information only.

### **Corporate Implications**

#### **Financial and Value for Money**

There are no identified financial implications from this report.

#### **Risk Management**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

#### **Legal**

The Leader will notify Council of the Councillor appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

#### **Corporate**

None.

#### **Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty**

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equality issues arising from this report.

## **Corporate Priorities**

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

- Promoting open communications

### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 The constitution of the Council states that the annual meeting will:

“in the year of the ordinary election of Councillors, receive from the Leader notification of the Councillor appointed as Deputy Leader to act in his or her absence.”

### **2.0 Decision Making Process**

2.1 The newly elected Leader will inform Council of their choice of Deputy Leader.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Reporting to: Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

## **Annex List**

There are no annexes to this report.

## **Background Papers**

There are no Background papers with this report.

## **Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** Director of Corporate Resources & S151 Officer

**Legal:** Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer



## REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2023/24

<b>Annual Council</b>	18 May 2023
<b>Report Author</b>	Committee Services Manager
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance Services
<b>Status</b>	For Decision
<b>Classification</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Key Decision</b>	No

### **Executive Summary:**

This report invites suggestions to update the lists of recognised outside bodies and the appointment of Members to serve on the non-executive list.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That Council agrees the list of Executive appointed outside bodies;
2. That Council agrees the list of Non-Executive outside bodies;
3. That Council agrees the nominations to the Non-Executive outside bodies.

### **Corporate Implications**

#### **Financial and Value for Money**

There are no direct financial implications from this report. However members allowances included in the annual budget are based on the existing structure and any increase in size or number of committees would require approval of the resulting increase in the budget.

#### **Legal**

None

#### **Risk Management**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

#### **Corporate**

The Council appoints representatives to outside bodies in order to express the views of the Council to those bodies on the work they undertake, and to feed back to the Council issues emerging from those bodies that relate to Council activities.

#### **Equalities Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty:**

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no direct equalities implications to this report as although there are Councillors from the protected groups, there are no restrictions on who may be appointed to represent the Council on outside bodies.

## **Corporate Priorities:**

- Growth
- Environment
- Communities

## **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 Council has two categories of outside bodies: those that relate to an Executive function and hence appointments should be made by the Cabinet, and those for which appointments should be made by Council.

## **2.0 The Current Situation**

2.1 The Leader has proposed the lists of Executive and Non-Executive outside bodies. These are shown at Annex 1 and Annex 2.

2.2 It is for Council to decide on both the list of Non-Executive outside bodies and the nominations to those Non-Executive outside bodies. The Leader will propose a list of nominations to the Non-Executive outside bodies at the Council meeting.

2.3 It is for Council to decide on those outside bodies it feels relate to an Executive function, but for Cabinet to agree the nominations to them.

## **3.0 Decision Making Process**

3.1 Council is the decision making body.

**Contact Officer:** Nicholas Hughes, Committee Services Manager

**Reporting to:** Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

## **Annex List:**

Annex 1 - List of Executive appointed outside bodies for 2023/24

Annex 2 - List of Non-Executive outside bodies for 2023/24

**Background Papers:**

None

**Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** Chris Blundell, Director of Corporate Resources & S151 Officer

**Legal:** Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

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## Proposed List of Executive Appointed Outside Bodies – for the municipal year 2023/24

<b>Name of Outside Body</b>	<b>No. of Reps</b>
British Ports Association	1
British Destinations (AGM, Annual Conference and Executive Meetings)	1
Community Safety Partnership	1
Domestic Violence Forum	1 (+1 reserve)
East Kent Opportunities Ltd	1
East Kent Spatial Development Company	1
Kent Police and Crime Panel	1
Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group	1
Local Government Association District Councils' Network	1
Local Government Association General Assembly	1
Local Government Association Strategic Aviation Specialist Interest Group	1
Manston Skills and Employment (MSE) Board	1
Margate Town Partnership	1
South East England Councils	1
Supporting People in Kent Commissioning Body	1
Thanet (Ramsgate) Harbour Users' Groups	1 (+1 reserve)
Thanet Quality Bus Partnership	1
Tourism South East	1
Your Leisure Thanet Sub Group	2

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**Proposed List of Non-Executive Outside Bodies – for the municipal year 2023/24**

<b>Name of Outside Body</b>	<b>No. of Reps</b>	<b>Councillor/s</b>
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	2	
Age UK: Thanet	1	
Campaign to Protect Rural England	1	
Citizens Advice, Thanet	2	
Millmead Children’s Centre Partnership Ltd	1	
Multiple Sclerosis Society	1	
Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside London	1	
Powell Cotton Museum and Quex House	1	
River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board	1	
Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve Steering Group	1	
Thanet Countryside Trust	2	
Thanet Rural Regeneration Group	1	
Thanet Sports Network	1 (+reserve)	
Thanet Volunteer Bureau	1	
The Friends of Margate Cemetery	2	
Trust for Thanet Archaeology	2	
Young People's Partnership	1	

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