

CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARDS – 2019/20

Council	27 February 2020
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

The report allows Council to agree on the number and size of the Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the municipal year and then subsequently the proportionality of the Council as result of the recent Cliffsend and Pegwell ward by-election and the resignation of Cllr Constantine as a Councillor. The report then goes on to address the allocation of seats on those bodies to political Groups.

Summary of Recommendation(s):

- 4.5 That Council approves the proportionality between groups (allocation of seats) for Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year as shown at table 2.
- 5.3 To note the corresponding group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year. (The names of those Councillors so nominated will be presented at the meeting)

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	The composition and allocation of membership of committees has been based on the relevant legislative requirements.
Corporate	There are no direct Corporate Implications
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.	
	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.	
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	x
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	x
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	x	

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant) ✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	✓

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The report allows Council to agree on the number and size of the Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the municipal year and then subsequently the proportionality of the Council as result of the recent Cliffsend and Pegwell ward by-election and the resignation of Cllr Constantine as a Councillor. The report then goes on to address the allocation of seats on those bodies to political Groups.

2.0 Political Balance

- 2.1 The current political balance of the Council after the recent Cliffsend and Pegwell Ward by-election and the resignation of Cllr Constantine is shown in the table below:

Table 1

	Before changes	After changes
Political Group	No. of Cllrs	No. of Cllrs
Conservative	25	25
Labour	20	19
Thanet Independents	7	7
Green	3	3
Independent (not in a group)	1	1

4.0 Political Proportionality

- 4.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to allocate seats on committees to political Groups in accordance with the size of each group on the Council as a whole and in accordance with the following principles which should be observed as far as is reasonably practicable:

- a) That not all seats on the same committee are allocated to the same political group;
- b) That the majority of the seats on a committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the Council's membership;
- c) That, subject to a) and b) above, the number of seats on committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion of the total of all the seats on committees;
- d) That, subject to a), b) and c) above, the number of seats on a committee allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all seats on that committee.
- 4.2 For the purposes of political balance a Group is required to have at least two members and to have been formally constituted as a political group before the meeting.
- 4.3 The report author has contacted the leaders of the political groups and consensus on an option to achieve political balance has been achieved. The application of political proportionality to the agreed Committee Structure will result in the following seats for individual groups:
- 4.4 That two seats be added to the General Purposes Committee and that one seat is given to the Conservative Group and one is given to the Thanet Independent Group. The table below shows the changes to numbers serving on Committees as a result of this proposal:

Table 2

Committees	Total	Conservative Group	Labour Group	Thanet Independents	Green Group
Planning Committee	14	6	5	2	1
Licensing Board	13	6	5	1	1
Overview and Scrutiny Panel	14	6	5	2	1
Gov. and Audit	13	6	5	1	1
General Purposes	12	6	4	2	0
B&EA Working Party	6	3	2	1	0
CRWP	4	2	1	1	0
Totals	76	35	27	10	4

4.4 Those figures that are highlighted in bold text in the table above are the ones that have changed from the option agreed at the meeting of Annual Council. The overall political balance calculation for the proposal shown above is available at Annex 1.

4.5 Recommendation

That Council approves the proportionality between groups (allocation of seats) for Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year as shown at table 2.

5.0 Nominations of Members to serve on Committees

5.1 Members are reminded that Section 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 states that where the Council has determined the allocation to different groups of the seats to which the Act applies, it shall be the duty of the authority to give effect to a Group's wishes about who is to be appointed to the seats that they have been allocated.

5.2 Therefore the corresponding amendments to group nominations as outlined below must also be made:

That two seats are added to the General Purposes Committee and that one of those seats is given to the Conservative Group and one is given to the Thanet Independent Group. This means that both of these groups will need to make a single new nomination each to the General Purposes Committee.

5.3 This is summarised in the table below:

Committee/Group	Current Position	New Position
General Purposes Committee		
Conservative Group	five seats	six seats (one new nominations needed)
Thanet Independent Group	one seat	two seats (one new nomination needed)

5.4 Group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards and will be circulated to Members separately at the meeting. Group Leaders can also use this opportunity to make any other changes to the nominations to their committee seats.

5.5 Recommendation

To note the corresponding group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year. (The names of those Councillors so nominated will be presented at the meeting)

Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Reporting to:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

Annex List

Annex 1	Proportionality calculations for main committees covered by Local Government & Housing Act 1989
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Chris Blundell, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer