

CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARDS - 2022/23

Annual Council	9 February 2023
Report Author	Committee Services Manager
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision:	No
Ward:	All Wards

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 a result of Councillor Wallin leaving the Conservative Group and becoming an Independent Councillor.

Recommendation(s):

- 3.5 That Council notes the proportionality between groups (allocation of seats) for Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.
- 4.3 Unless Group Leaders wish to make other amendments to their nominations to serve on committees, members are asked to note the current group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.

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.

Risk Management

There are no Corporate risks identified within this report.

Corporate

There are no direct Corporate Implications

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

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- Communities

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 This report seeks to update the proportionality of Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year as a result of Cllr Wallin leaving the Conservative Group and becoming an Independent Councillor.

2.0 Political Balance

2.1 The current political balance of the Council after Councillor Wallin leaving the Conservative Group and becoming an Independent Councillor is shown in the table below:

Table 1

Political Group	No. of Cllrs	No. of Cllr after changes
Conservative	27	26
Labour	16	16
Green and Independent Group	6	6
Thanet Independent Group	5	5
Independent (not in a group)	2	3

3.0 Political Proportionality

3.1 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 After undertaking the political balance calculations attached at Annex 1 to this report, no changes are needed to achieve political balance on Committees. The existing arrangements are outlined for members information in the table below:

3.4 Option 1

Table 3

Committees	Total	Conservative Group	Labour Group	Greens & Ind.	Thanet Independent s
Planning Committee	16	8	5	2	1
Licensing Board	14	7	4	2	1
Overview and Scrutiny Panel	14	7	4	2	1
Gov. and Audit	12	6	4	1	1
General Purposes	12	6	4	1	1
B&EA Working Party	6	3	2	0	1

Disciplinary & Grievance Committee	6	3	2	1	0
D&G Appeals Committee	3	1	1	0	1
CRWP	6	3	1	1	1
Totals	89	44	27	10	8

3.4.1 The overall political balance calculation for the above is available at Annex 1.

3.5 Recommendation

That Council notes the proportionality between groups (allocation of seats) for Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.

4.0 Nominations of Members to serve on Committees

4.1 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.

4.2 As the political balance of the Council has not changed and Councillor Wallin was not a member of any committees there are no necessary amendments that need to be made to nominations of members to service on committees.

4.3 Recommendation

Unless Group Leaders wish to make other amendments to their nominations to serve on committees, members are asked to note the current group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.

Contact Officer: Nicholas Hughes (Committee Services Manager)

Reporting to: Sameera Khan (Interim Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer)

Annex List

Annex 1: Proportionality calculations for main committees covered by Local Government & Housing Act 1989 Option 1

Background Papers

None

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell, Head of Financial Services

Legal: Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer