

CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARDS - 2022/23

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Full Council | 23 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 Cllr Wallin joining the Thanet Independent Group, Cllr Hart leaving the Conservative Group, Cllr Hopkinson leaving the Labour Group and creation of the Appointments Working Party.

Recommendation(s):

- 3.6 That Council approves the proportionality between groups (allocation of seats) for Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.
- 4.3 To note the corresponding group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2022/23 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.

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 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 Cllr Wallin joining the Thanet Independent Group, Cllr Hart leaving the Conservative Group Cllr Hopkinson leaving the Labour Group and creation of the Appointments Working Party

2.0 Political Balance

2.1 The current political balance of the Council after changes outlined in the paragraph above is shown in the table below:

Table 1

| Political Group | No. of Cllrs | No. of Cllr after changes |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Conservative | 26 | 25 |
| Labour | 16 | 15 |
| Green and Independent Group | 6 | 6 |
| Thanet Independent Group | 6 | 6 |
| Independent (not in a group) | 2 | 4 |

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 consulting with Group Leaders a consensus has been achieved with regard to meeting political balance on Committees. This is outlined in table below:

3.4 Option 1

Table 3

| Committees | Total | Conservative Group | Labour Group | Greens & Ind. | Thanet Independents |
|--------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Planning Committee | 16 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Licensing Board | 14 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Overview and Scrutiny Panel | 15 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Gov. and Audit | 13 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| General Purposes | 12 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| B&EA Working Party | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Disciplinary & Grievance Committee | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| D&G Appeals Committee | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CRWP | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Appointments Panel | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Totals | 94 | 45 | 27 | 11 | 11 |

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

3.5 Consensus Option

3.5.1 That a seat is removed from the Labour Group on the Licensing Board and that seat is given to the Thanet Independents Group. That a seat is added to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and that seat is given to the Thanet Independents Group. That a seat is added to the Governance and Audit Committee and that seat is given to the Thanet Independents Group. That a seat is removed from the Green and Independent Group on the Disciplinary and Grievance Committee and that seat is given to the Thanet Independents Group. That an Appointments Panel is created consisting of three seats, these being distributed as follows: 1 seat to each of the Conservative, Labour and Green and Independent Groups. In addition changes will also need to be made to replace Cllr Hart and Cllr Hopkinson on the committees they were members of.

This is summarised in the table below:

| Committee/Group | Current Position | New Position |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Planning Committee | | |
| Conservative Group | Cllr Hart | New nomination needed |
| Licensing Board | | |
| Labour Group | 3 seats | 2 Seat (1 Councillor to be removed) |
| Thanet Independents Group | 1 seats | 2 seats (1 Councillor to be added) |
| Scrutiny Panel | | |

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Thanet Independents Group | 1 seats | 2 seats (1 Councillor to be added) |
| Governance and Audit | | |
| Labour Group | Cllr Hopkinson | New nomination needed |
| Green and Independent Group | 1 seats | 2 seats (1 Councillor to be added) |
| D&G Committee | | |
| Thanet Independents Group | 0 seat | New nomination needed |
| Green and Independent Group | 1 seat | 0 Seat (1 Councillor to be removed) |
| Joint Transport Board | | |
| Conservative Group | Cllr Hart | New nomination needed |
| CRWP | | |
| Conservative Group | Cllr Hart | New nomination needed |
| Labour Group | Cllr Hopkinson | New nomination needed |
| Appointments Panel | | |
| Conservative Group | 0 seat | New nomination needed |
| Labour Group | 0 seat | New nomination needed |
| Green and Independents Group | 0 seat | New nomination needed |

3.6 Recommendation

That Council approves 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 Therefore the corresponding amendments to group nominations in accordance with the proportionality shown in the table at paragraph 3.4 must also be made.

4.3 Recommendation

To note the corresponding group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year. (The names of those Councillors so nominated will be presented at the meeting)

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