

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

<b>Full Council</b>	30 March 2023
<b>Report Author</b>	Committee Services Manager
<b>Status</b>	For Decision
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Ward:</b>	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 Hart joining the Thanet Independent Group.

### **Recommendation(s):**

### **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 Hart.

### 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	25	25
Labour	15	15
Green and Independent Group	6	6
Thanet Independent Group	6	<b>7</b>
Independent (not in a group)	4	<b>3</b>

### 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 Consensus has not been reached on a single option to achieve proportionality amongst Group Leaders, therefore Council will have to choose an option to achieve proportionality. The application of political proportionality to the Committee Structure will result in the following seats for individual groups:

#### 3.4 Option 1

**Table 2**

<b>Committees</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Conservative Group</b>	<b>Labour Group</b>	<b>Thanet Independents</b>	<b>Greens &amp; Ind.</b>
Planning Committee	16	7	5	2	2
Licensing Board	14	7	3	2	2
Overview and Scrutiny Panel	15	7	4	2	2
Gov. and Audit	13	6	4	1	2
General Purposes	12	6	4	1	1
B&EA Working Party	6	3	2	1	0
Disciplinary & Grievance Committee	6	3	2	1	0

D&G Appeals Committee	3	1	1	1	0
CRWP	6	3	1	1	1
Appointments Panel	3	1	1	0	1
Totals	94	44	27	12	11

### 3.5 Opton 2

Committees	Total	Conservative Group	Labour Group	Thanet Independents	Greens & Ind.
Planning Committee	16	8	5	1	2
Licensing Board	14	7	3	2	2
Overview and Scrutiny Panel	15	7	4	2	2
Gov. and Audit	<b>14</b>	6	4	<b>2</b>	2
General Purposes	12	6	4	1	1
B&EA Working Party	6	3	2	1	0
Disciplinary & Grievance Committee	6	3	2	1	0
D&G Appeals Committee	3	1	1	1	0
CRWP	6	3	1	1	1
Appointments Panel	3	1	1	0	1
Totals	94	44	27	12	11

3.5.1 The overall political balance calculations for the two proposals shown above are available at Annex 1 and 2 of the report.

### 3.6 Option 3

- 3.6.1 That another solution that achieves proportionality is agreed. Note that if an alternative proposal is developed during the meeting, compliance with the proportionality rules would need to be verified by officers.

### **3.7 Recommendation**

That Council agrees an option shown in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.6 that achieves proportionality.

### **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 chosen proportionality option must also be made.

### **4.3 Recommendation**

To note the corresponding changes to group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of 2021/22. (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

Annex 2: Proportionality calculations for main committees covered by Local Government & Housing Act 1989 Option 2

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** Chris Blundell, Head of Financial Services

**Legal:** Sameera Khan, Interim Head of Legal