

CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, PANELS AND BOARDS FOR REMAINDER 2023/24

Council	22 February 2024
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

Cllr Abi-Leigh Barlow has left the Conservative Group and joined the Labour Group, this report allows Council to agree a revised proportionality to reflect this change and amending the nominations to committees as a result.

Summary of Recommendations (relevant paragraphs as listed below):

- 3.6 That Council approves the proportionality between groups (allocation of seats) for Committees, Panels and Boards for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.
- 4.3 To note the corresponding group nominations to Committees, Panels and Boards for 2023/24. (The names of those Councillors so nominated will be presented at the meeting).

Corporate Implications:

Finance 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.

Risk Management

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

Legal

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to review committee membership and political representation annually and when notice is received of a change in the size of the political groups. The change referred to in this report has triggered this review.

Corporate

There are no direct Corporate Implications.

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.

The report’s objectives are to:

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

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *To create a thriving place*
- *To work efficiently for you*

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 a result of Cllr Abi-Leigh Barlow leaving the Conservative Group and joining the Labour Group.

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
Labour	30	31
Conservative	17	16
Green and Independent Group	6	6
Thanet Independents	3	6

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 consultation with Group Leaders consensus has been reached on a preferred option regarding proportionality. The application of political proportionality to the Committee Structure will result in the following seats for individual groups:

Table 3

Committees	Total	Labour Group	Conservative Group	Green and Ind. Group	Thanet Independent Group
Planning Committee	15	8	4	2	1
Licensing Board	14	8	4	1	1
Overview and Scrutiny Panel	15	8	4	2	1
Gov. and Audit	15	8	4	2	1
General Purposes	15	8	4	2	1
B&EA Working Party	5	3	2	0	0
D&C Committee	5	3	2	0	0

D&C Appeals Committee	5	3	2	0	0
CRWP	5	3	1	1	0
Appts Committee	3	2	1	0	0
Totals	97	54	28	10	5

3.4 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 Licensing Board and that as a result the Conservative Group to lose a seat on the Licensing Board. Cllr Abi-Leigh Barlow was also a member of the Governance and Audit Committee and so the Conservative Group will need to make a new nomination to that committee.

Committee/Group	Current Position	New Position
Licensing Board		
Conservative Group	5 seats	4 seats (1 to be removed)
Governance and Audit Committee		
Conservative Group	Cllr Barlow	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 2023/24 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 2023/24. (The names of those Councillors so nominated will be presented at the meeting)

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Reporting to: Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)

Annex List:

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

Background Papers:

None

Corporate Consultation:

Finance: Chris Blundell, Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer

Legal: Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)