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Date: 16 September 2026

Dear Member

COUNTY COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Please find enclosed, for consideration at the 17 September Ordinary Meeting of Full Council, the report for Item 9 (Proportionality Update). This report was not available when the main agenda was published.

Agenda Item No

9

Proportionality Update (Pages 1 - 4)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Watts', is written over a faint, larger signature.

Benjamin Watts
Deputy Chief Executive

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By: Joel Cook – Head of Democratic Services

To: County Council – 17 September 2026

Subject: Proportionality and Appointments to committees and other bodies

Classification: Unrestricted

Recommendation:

The County Council is asked to:

- (a) **APPROVE** the amendment to the Committee sizes and the allocation of committee and sub-committee places between the political groups;
- (a) **DELEGATE** authority to the Head of Democratic Services to implement any time delayed changes, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.

For Decision

Composition of the County Council

1. Following recent Political Group size changes and in anticipation of the Planning Committee size reduction required by legislation, the Political Proportionality and Committee seat allocations require review. The updated details are set out in the below table.

Political Group	Number of seats	Proportion of seats (%)
Reform UK	47	58.02
Liberal Democrat	12	14.81
Restore Britain Kent	7	8.64
Green	6	7.41
Conservative	5	6.17
Labour	2	2.47
Non-Group aligned	2	2.47
Total	81	100%

Note – Figures rounded for presentational purposes

Committee Appointments

2. The Council must, from time to time, determine the number of Members to serve on each committee and the allocation of committee places between the political groups.

3. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires committee places to be allocated between the political groups in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) the group with the majority of seats on the Council must have a majority of seats on each committee.
 - (b) subject to (a) above, the number of seats on the total of all committees allocated to any political group must be proportional to the number of seats which that group holds on the Council;
 - (c) subject to (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on each committee allocated to any political group must be proportional to the number of seats which that group holds on the Council.
 - (d) Only political groups have an entitlement to seats on committees. A 'political group' is defined as two or more Members who inform the Monitoring Officer that they wish to be regarded as a political group.
4. The Council must seek to achieve proportionality as far as is practicable, balancing the requirements set out in paragraph 3. Council most recently determined the Proportionality and Committee seat allocations at the 21 May 2026 meeting.
5. As a result of Group Membership changes, no Groups have equal numbers on the Council. As a result, any split entitlements approved when this issue was last considered have been reviewed, with the relevant seats being transferred the larger Group.
6. This report also seeks to address the requirement for the Council to review the size of the Committee responsible for Planning matters due to legislative change. The detail of that is the subject of another item and report considered by Full Council but the expectation of the legislation is that the relevant Committee may be a maximum size of 13 Members and this therefore requires a reduction from the current 15 total membership previously agreed by Council. The proposals set out in the paper take this into account, although the change in size for this Committee will only take effect at the point the broader substantive updates to the Planning arrangements are made. This delayed implementation element is also noted beneath Table 1 below.
7. The compliant arrangements are set out below in the following tables with the affected Committees and Sub-Committees highlighted. The first table sets out the full list of main Committees, where there is a requirement that, as far as is practicable, the overall number of seats is balanced along with the numbers on each individual committee. The changes are highlighted in **bold**. The second table sets out only those sub-committees where the committee seat numbers are changing, in line with the removal of split entitlements.

Committee	Reform	LD	Res Br	Green	Cons	Lab	No group	Total
<i>Scrutiny Committee +5</i>	7	2	1	1	1	1	0	13
<i>Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee +4</i>	8	2	1	1	1	0	0	13
<i>Governance and Audit Committee</i>	7	2	1	1	1	1	0	13
<i>Personnel Committee</i>	7	2	1	1	1	1	0	13
<i>Planning & Regulation Committee*</i>	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	13
<i>Selection and Member Services Committee</i>	8	2	1	1	1	0	0	13
<i>Pension Fund Committee +3 (1/1/1)</i>	6	2	1	1	1	0	0	11
<i>Kent Flood Risk Management Committee</i>	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	7
<i>Standards Committee</i>	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	7
<i>TOTAL</i>	58	16	10	9	7	3	0	103
<i>Proportionate Share of Total</i>	60	15	9	8	6	2.5	2.5	103
<i>Difference</i>	-2	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.5	-2.5	0

* Change to Planning Committee to be progressed at the point of implementation of the Planning Terms of Reference changes (subject to approval of ToR changes by Council)

Affected Sub-Committees:

Sub-Committees	Reform	LD	Res Br	Green	Cons	Lab	Total
Selection and Member Services Committee Governor Appointments Panel	4	1	1	1	0	0	7
Personnel Committee Member Appointment Panel	5	1	1	1	0	0	8

Recommendations

The County Council is asked to:

- (b) **APPROVE** the amendment to the Committee sizes and the allocation of committee and sub-committee places between the political groups;
 - (b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Head of Democratic Services to implement any time delayed changes, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.
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Report Author

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