

By: Chairman Superannuation Fund Committee
Corporate Director of Finance & Procurement
Director of Law & Governance

To: Superannuation Fund Committee – 6 November 2015

Subject: **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To determine the Committee's membership.

FOR DECISION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee has received a number of reports on its membership this year and at the last meeting the Committee asked for definitive advice for this meeting on viable options.

PROPOSAL

2. This issue originally came up because of the need to:
 - (1) Address the issue of the Medway Council representative not having voting rights when the District Council representatives do.
 - (2) Make appropriate arrangements for the nomination of District Council representatives.
 - (3) Reflect the overall political balance of the Council on the Committee.
3. Awarding voting rights to the Medway Council representative whilst retaining three District Council voting representatives does impact on the political balance issue. It would require adding significant numbers of new Conservative County Councillors in order to comply with the rules on proportionality, which entitles the majority group to have a majority on all Committees taking into account all other voting Members including co-opted Members. Such a significant change to the Committee's membership is not felt to be appropriate at this relatively late stage in this administration. In addition, Members will be aware that it is extremely rare for this Committee to have formal votes and, therefore, the Chairman is of the view that whilst the Conservative Group would be entitled to increase its membership, there is no need to do so and there is also concern that having such a large Committee will become unwieldy.

4. The Chairman is also keen to reiterate that all members of the Committee, voting or non-voting, are able to play a full role in the Committee's work and to contribute to the decision making process.

RECOMMENDATION

5. It is therefore proposed that:
 - (1) The Committee membership remains unchanged.
 - (2) Voting rights for the Medway Council representative will be reviewed after the May 2017 County Council election.
 - (3) The current District Council representatives will remain unchanged and if one of the existing representatives is no longer eligible to be a representative or steps down the Kent Leaders Group will be asked to nominate a replacement.
6. The Head of Democratic Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report and his comments have been taken on board.

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