

By: General Counsel (Interim)
To: County Council – 20 October 2016
Subject: Revised Proportionality Calculations and Committee Membership
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Following the recent Gravesham East and Swanley by-elections it may be necessary for the County Council to agree a revised allocation of committee places between the political groups.

1. When there is a change in the number of seats held by a political group on the County Council there is a requirement under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 that the County Council reviews its proportionality calculation and agree any resultant changes to the number of seats per Group on Committees and outside bodies.

2. As Members will be aware the Gravesham East by-election was held on 18 August 2016 and Mrs Marsh was elected to the County Council. This had the effect of increasing the number of seats held by the Conservative Group by one and reducing the number of seats held by the Labour Group by one.

3. Before this change in proportionality could be reported to County Council the death of Mr Brookbank resulted in the calling of a by-election for the Swanley Electoral Division which is being held on Thursday 13 October, with the count taking place that evening.

4. I wish to make Members aware that, as the result of the Swanley by-election will not be known until after the agenda and papers for the County Council meeting have to be published, it may be necessary to produce a supplementary report on Friday 14 October requesting County Council to consider revised proportionality calculations and committee membership

Recommendation

5. That, subject to the result of the Swanley by-election, the County Council consider a supplementary report with recommendation(s) on revised proportionality and Committee Membership.

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