

By: Benjamin Watts - General Counsel

To: County Council – 13 July 2023

Subject: Proportionality Update

Classification: Unrestricted

Recommendation:

The County Council is asked to:

- (a) **NOTE** the outcome of the recent by-election and that no changes are required under the proportionality rules.
- (b) **CONFIRM** the continued delegated authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Group leaders to adjust the allocation of committee places in order to conform to overall proportionality requirements and manage membership arrangements in line with the details set out in this report and that considered by Council On 25 May 2023.

For Noting

Recent By-Election

1. A by-election was held for the Maidstone Central Division on 6 July 2023. The Liberal Democrats held the seat, resulting in no change to overall representation figures on the Council.

Proportionality – substantive review requirement not triggered

2. Where substantive changes to the number of seats held by different groups arise as the result of normal elections or by-elections, the application of the proportionality arrangements is required. Following the latest by-election, the updated position does not have a material impact on the proportionality arrangements.
3. Council considered proportionality and Committee appointments at its AGM on 25 May 2023 and as the recent by-election does not substantively change the entitlement to seats, the requirement to review proportionality and seat allocations in line with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
4. Any optional changes to allocations or alternations to Committee sizes may be explored through discussion between the Group Leaders and would be brought subsequently to Full Council for formal consideration at a future meeting.

Recommendations

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- (a) **NOTE** the outcome of the recent by-election and that no changes are required under the proportionality rules.
- (a) **CONFIRM** the continued delegated authority to the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Group leaders, to adjust the allocation of committee places in order to conform to overall proportionality requirements and manage membership arrangements in line with the details set out in this report and that considered by Council On 25 May 2023.

Background documents

- [Proportionality and Appointments to Outside Bodies report to County Council – 25 May 2023.](#)

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