

By: Joel Cook – Democratic Services Manager  
To: County Council – 21 May 2026  
Subject: Proportionality and Appointments to committees and other bodies  
Classification: Unrestricted

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### **Recommendation:**

The County Council is asked to:

- (a) **APPROVE** the amendment to the allocation of committee and sub-committee places between the political groups;
- (b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Democratic Services Manager, to resolve relevant appointments with the affected Political Groups.

### For Decision

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### **Composition of the County Council**

1. Following the April 2026 Cliftonville By-election and the subsequent update to Political Group membership, the political make-up of the Council has changed. The updated details are set out in the below table.

<b>Political Group</b>	<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>Proportion of seats (%)</b>
Reform UK	47	58.02
Liberal Democrat	12	14.81
Restore Britain Kent	7	8.64
Conservative	6	7.41
Green	6	7.41
Labour	2	2.47
Non-Group aligned	1	1.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 19 March 2026 meeting.
5. The implication of the recent Political Group numbers following the by-election is that the Conservative and Green Groups once again have an equal number of Members. In accordance with proportionality principles and in the context of the approved total number of Committee seats, the adjustment proposed is to re-apply split entitlements across a small number of Committees and sub-Committees to ensure equal seat numbers shared between the relevant Groups.
6. The overview is set out below; 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 necessitate a change to ensure parity between Groups of the same size.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Reform</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>Res Br</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>No group</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Scrutiny Committee</i> +5*	7	2	1	1	1	1	0	13
<i>Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i> +4\$	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 Applications Committee</i>	8	3	2	1	1	0	0	15
<i>Selection and Member Services Committee</i>	8	2	1	1	1	0	0	13
<i>Pension Fund Committee</i> +3# (1/1/1)	6	2	1	1	1	0	0	11
<b>Kent Flood Risk Management Committee</b>	4	1	1	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	0	0	7
<b>Standards Committee</b>	4	1	1	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	0	0	7
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	59	17	10	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	3	0	105
<b><u>Proportionate Share of Total</u></b>	61	15.5	9	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	2.5	<b>1</b>	105
<b><u>Difference</u></b>	-2	+1.5	+1	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	+0.5	<b>-1</b>	105

**Affected Sub-Committees:**

<b>Sub-Committees</b>	<b>Reform</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>Res Br</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Total</b>
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

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## Recommendations

The County Council is asked to:

- (a) **APPROVE** the amendment to the allocation of committee and sub-committee places between the political groups as set out in Appendix 1;
- (b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Democratic Services Manager, to resolve relevant appointments with the affected Political Groups.

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## Background Documents

Full Council 19 March 2026 Proportionality reports:

[\(Public Pack\)Report for Item 11 - Proportionality Agenda Supplement for County Council, 19/03/2026 10:00](#)

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