

From: Joel Cook – Head of Democratic Services  
To: Selection and Member Service Committee – 2 July 2026  
Subject: Outside Bodies: Appointments  
Status: Unrestricted

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## **1. Introduction**

- a) This report updates the Committee on the confirmed appointments which have been made in accordance with the arrangements previously agreed by the Committee. The report also seeks a decision from the Committee on the resolution of the two outstanding appointments yet to be made.
- b) Selection and Member Services Committee is charged with making appointments to specific Outside Bodies on behalf of the County Council. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 political proportionality principles do not apply to these appointments in most cases, but in recent years it has been the County Council's convention that appointments should be shared between the Political Groups on, so far as possible, a proportional basis.
- c) The Committee has previously been supplied with the Outside Body Protocol – this sets out the framework for Outside Body appointments and the Committee's role. A copy of the protocol is appended for reference.
- d) The Protocol and this Committee's powers of appointment do not extend to the appointments made by the Leader.

## **2. Appointments Update**

- a) At previous meetings, the Committee agreed to delegate authority to Officers to make appointments where the requisite number of Members expressed an interest. At the meetings in March 2026 and May 2026, it was confirmed that expressions of interest had been sought but some appointments remained outstanding, either due to a lack of nominations or too many for the available roles.
- b) Following further engagement with Members and Group Leaders, only two Outside Body appointments are yet to be resolved. The two outstanding appointments remaining to be made are for the Gabriel Richards Charity and the Rochester Bridge Trust.
- c) Appointments to all other Outside Bodies have now been made, with the relevant organisations advised of the outcome of the appointment process and relevant role information provided to those Members appointed. A full list of appointments made is provided at Appendix 1.
- d) As was set out at the May meeting, there remained a small number of Outside Bodies where more nominations had been put forward than there were vacancies. In

accordance with the decision of the Committee in May, Officers worked with relevant Group Leaders to confirm final nominations and make the relevant appointments.

- e) Two Outside bodies have not been resolved via delegation and it is now for the Committee to make a final determination. While it is viable for the Committee to request further engagement to resolve via the existing delegations, it is advised that the Committee seek to determine the matter at this time to support timely appointments. Appendix 2 lists the relevant bodies and Members but key information is included in the main report below to support decision-making:

#### Gabriel Richards Trust

Organisation overview:

The charity operates age exclusive alms-houses the provision of affordable housing for persons over the age of 55 of age in Goodnestone, near Canterbury, Kent.

The Charity is based in East Kent.

The two Expressions of Interest are from:

- Mr Paul King – KCC Member for Dover West (Reform Group)
- Ms Amelia Randall – KCC Member for Birchington & Rural (Independent)

#### Rochester Bridge Trust

Organisation overview:

The Charity is established for the maintenance and improvement of the two adjacent bridges known as the Rochester Bridge and of the Medway Tunnel, and for purposes connected with the River Medway.

The Trustee role involves being an Assistant Warden and serving on various Committees which oversee the management of the Trust activities.

The organisation is based in Medway.

The two Expressions of Interest are from:

- Mr Michael Brown – KCC Member for Dartford Rural (Reform Group)
- Mr Paul Thomas – KCC Member for Maidstone South (Restore Britain Kent Group)

As referenced in paragraph 1b, consideration should be given to the Council's convention that appointments should be shared between Political Groups. The current position, in relation to those Groups from which Members have expressed an interest in the outstanding Outside Bodies, is that Reform UK Members have been appointed to seven Outside Bodies, Restore Britain Kent Members have not been appointed to any Outside Bodies and Independent or Non-Group Aligned Members have been appointed to one Outside Body.

### **3. Recommendation**

The Selection and Member Services Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the appointments made (as detailed in Appendix 1); and
- b) Decide the appointment of specific Members to the following bodies:
  - Rochester Bridge Trust
  - Gabriel Richards Charity

### **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Confirmed Appointments to Outside Bodies.

Appendix 2 – Outstanding Appointments for decision by the Committee

### **5. Background Documents**

Outside Body Protocol

### **6. Report Author and Relevant Director**

Joel Cook – Head of Democratic Services

03000 416892

[Joel.cook@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Joel.cook@kent.gov.uk)

Ben Watts – Deputy Chief Executive

03000 416814

[benjamin.watts@kent.gov.uk](mailto:benjamin.watts@kent.gov.uk)