

This report will be made public on 16 January 2024



Report Number **A/23/19**

To: Council
Date: 24 January 2024
Status: Non- Executive Decision
Responsible Officer: Susan Priest, Chief Executive

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

SUMMARY: The report advises on changes to the political balance of Folkestone and Hythe District Council, following the resignation of Councillor Liz Grant on 14 December 2023. It also sets out the appointments since the last Council meeting, under Part 8.1 of the constitution, 'Delegation to Officers', paragraph 3.16, which authorises the Chief Executive to make appointments to committees or sub-committees at the request of the relevant political group leader.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Council is asked to agree the recommendation set out below because the Constitution requires any committee membership changes to be reported to the Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

To receive and note report A/23/19.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 14 December 2023, Councillor Liz Grant resigned as a Councillor. The resignation has had a small impact on the political balance of the Council.
- 1.2 Under the Folkestone and Hythe District Council Constitution, Part 8.1 'Delegation to Officers', paragraph 3.16, the Head of Paid Service is authorised to make appointments to committees or sub-committees, at the request of the relevant political group leader, subject to the conditions that (a) the appointed member shall be a replacement for a committee or sub-committee member from the same political group or the appointee is to fill a vacant seat on the committee/sub-committee allocated to the political group of which he/she is a member and (b) the changes shall be reported to the next available meeting of the Council. This report sets out the appointments made.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES/SUB-COMMITTEES

- 2.1 Following the resignation of Councillor Liz Grant on 14 December 2023, the political balance of Folkestone and Hythe District Council has altered slightly, as follows:

	% on Council prior to 14 December	Previous number of Cllrs	% on Council post 15 December	Current number of Cllrs
Conservative	16.667	5	13.79	4
Green	36.667	11	37.93	11
Labour	33.334	10	34.48	10
Liberal Democrats	6.667	2	6.90	2
Independent	3.334	1	3.45	1
Independent	3.334	1	3.45	1
Totals	100	30	100	29

- 2.2 The percentage allocations have been used to calculate the number of seats allocated to each group.

Group	No of seats pre 14 December	No of seats post 14 December	Difference
Conservative	6.00	5.00	-1
Green	12.00	13.00	+1
Labour	11.00	11.00	-
Liberal Democrats	2.00	2.00	-
Independent	1.00	1.00	-
Independent	1.00	1.00	-
Total	33.00	33.00	-

- 2.3 As a result, the Conservative Group will lose one seat, and the Green Group will gain one seat. The table below shows the new seat allocations. The Conservative Group will lose a seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Greens will gain a seat.

The new seat allocations are shown below:

33 seats		Cons	Green	Labour	Lib Dem	Indep	Indep	TOTAL
Personnel	5	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Overview	10	1.00	5.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Audit and Governance	6	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	6.00
Planning and Licensing	12	2.00	4.00	4.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	12.00
Total	33	5.00	13.00	11.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	33.00

Councillor Liz Grant previously held a seat on the Audit and Governance Committee.

The following appointments to committees have been made:

Committee/Sub-Committee	Previous Committee Member	New Committee Member
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor David Godfrey (Cons)	Vacant (Green)
Audit and Governance Committee	Councillor Liz Grant (Cons)	Councillor David Godfrey (Cons)

Changes to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Sub-Committee Membership will be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3 LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

3.1 Legal Officer's comments (AK)

There are no legal issues arising from this report.

3.2 Finance Officer's comments (RH)

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

3.3 Diversity and Equalities Implications (GE)

There are no diversity and equality implications arising from this report.

4 CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting:

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The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None