

This report will be made public on 22 March 2024



Report Number **A/23/26**

To: Council
Date: 3 April 2024
Status: Non- Executive Decision
Responsible Officer: Susan Priest, Chief Executive

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

SUMMARY: This report advises on changes to the political balance of Folkestone and Hythe District Council following the by-election at Romney Marsh on 22 February 2024 and election of Councillor Tony Hills. 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. This report sets out the appointments made, under these powers, at the request of the political group leaders, since the last Council meeting.

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/23/26.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 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

- 2.1.1 At the by-election on 22 February 2024, Councillor Tony Hills, the Conservative Party candidate was elected as district councillor for Romney Marsh.

There is an impact on political balance, which is reflected in the table below.

	% on Council prior to 22 February 2024	Previous number of Cllrs	% on Council post 22 February 2024.	Current number of Cllrs
Conservative	13.79	4	16.667	5
Independent	37.93	11	36.667	11
UKIP	34.48	10	33.334	10
Vacant	6.90	2	6.667	2
Totals	3.45	1	3.334	1

- 2.2 The Conservatives have gained by one, and this has been calculated as one additional seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This seat had previously been given to the Green group following the resignation of Liz Grant in December 2023. The nominated representative to take up the conservative seat is indicated below:

Committee/Sub-Committee	Previous Committee Member	New Committee Member
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy (Green)	Councillor Tony Hills

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 (JW)

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