TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

14 February 2017

Report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision

1   POLITICAL BALANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMITTEES

To determine the political balance arrangements to be applied to the Council's committees, sub-committees, advisory boards and panels following the by-election for Trench and to approve consequent changes in membership.

1.1.1   Under section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Council is required to review the composition of any of its committees and sub-committees to which those provisions apply at the annual meeting of the Council and after any election.

1.1.2   Further to the Returning Officer's report on the result of the by-election for the Trench ward, the number of seats held by each of the political parties is as follows:

Conservative	48	(88.89%)
Liberal Democrat	4	(7.41%)
Independent	2	(3.70%)

1.1.3   The Council is required to determine the composition of its committees so as to reflect this political balance and to ensure that the total number of seats which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on those committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council ie 172 seats allocated 153 Conservative, 13 Liberal Democrat, 6 Independent. This overall allocation of seats is the same as that reported to the Annual Council meeting and the table below shows the number of committees etc of various sizes which need to be politically balanced and the way in which the total number of available seats were allocated to reflect the proportions on the Council as a whole:

Size of Committee	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Independent
18 (x1) O&S	16 (16.00)	1 (1.33)	1 (0.67)
15 (x1) L&A	13 (13.33)	1 (1.11)	1 (0.56)
16 (x5) ABs	#14 (14.22)	1 (1.19)	*1 (0.59)
14 (x1) GP	12 (12.44)	1 (1.04)	1 (0.52)
13 (x1) Jnt Stnds	12 (11.56)	1 (0.96)	0 (0.48)
9 (x3) Audit,ERWG,JECC	8 (8.00)	1 (0.67)	0 (0.33)
5 (x1) HALP	4 (4.44)	*1 (0.37)	0 (0.19)
Total no seats = 172			
	153	13	6
	# 14 (x3) 15 (x2)	*1 to satisfy overall political balance figures	*1 (x3) 0 (x2)

1.1.4 It therefore remains for the Conservative Group to decide which of its existing seats should be re-allocated to the new councillor and for any changes to the membership of committees etc to be endorsed by the Council. I have been notified of the following proposed changes to membership:

Councillor Mrs P Bates to fill the vacancy on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Miss G Thomas to fill the vacancy on the Joint Standards Committee
Councillor Miss G Thomas to replace Councillor Mrs P Bates on the Communities and Housing Advisory Board
Councillor Miss G Thomas to fill the vacancy on the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board

1.2   Legal Implications

1.2.1   The Council is required to review the composition of its committees in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (duty to allocate seats to political groups) and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) regulations 1990.

1.3   Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1   Not applicable.

1.4   Risk Assessment

1.4.1   Not applicable.

1.5   Equality Impact Assessment

1.6   The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7   Recommendations

1.7.1   RECOMMENDED that:

1)   the composition of all committees, sub-committees, advisory boards and panels be approved in accordance with the table at paragraph 1.1.3 and the Monitoring Officer make any consequential amendments to the Council's constitution in respect of political balance; and

2)   the appointments set out at paragraph 1.1.4 above be approved.

Background papers: contact: Claire Fox

Nil

Adrian Stanfield
Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer