

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

09 November 2023

Report of the Principal Democratic Services Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE – PARISH/TOWN REPRESENTATIVES AND VOTING ALLOCATIONS

Following consultation with parish and town councils, this report confirms representatives for the Joint Standards Committee and allocates voting rights for the period 2024-2025.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 At the previous meeting of the Parish Partnership Panel, Members were advised that a review of the contact information for parish/town council representatives held by Democratic Services was being undertaken.
- 1.1.2 The opportunity was also being taken to review the 'pool' of representatives and to formalise voting allocations to help facilitate meetings more effectively and avoid confusion.
- 1.1.3 Members were reminded that when the Joint Standards Committee was established in 2013 there was a canvas to see which parishes wanted to participate. These responses then formed a 'pool' of 15 representatives who could attend meetings of the Committee and be eligible to participate in Standards Hearings. Out of these 15, there should be 6 voting parish members as recommended in 2013.
- 1.1.4 In the past, voting rights have been assigned on an ad hoc basis on a first come first served basis which sometimes created confusion as it was not always clear who was eligible to vote on matters of business.
- 1.1.5 There was no objection expressed at the meeting to this approach and the Kent Association of Local Councils who had also been consulted with were supportive of the proposal.

1.2 Outcome of Review

- 1.2.1 Parish and Town Councils who were interested in joining the 'pool' had confirmed details with Democratic Services by Friday 29 September and the number of participating representatives was 14 (down from 15) as set out in Annex 1.
- 1.2.2 From this 'pool', voting rights for 2024 and 2025 had been allocated based on previous attendance as set out in Annex 1.
- 1.2.3 It was confirmed that not being assigned voting rights didn't prevent parish reps from participating in meetings of the Joint Standards Committee but removed confusion around voting.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 The matters raised in this report are considered to routine, uncontroversial or not legally complex and a legal opinion has not been sought on these proposals.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 N/A

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 N/A

1.6 Policy Considerations

- 1.6.1 N/A

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 The Panel is asked to note the revised 'pool' of parish and town council representatives and the voting allocations for 2024-2025 (as set out in Annex 1) to be endorsed by the Joint Standards Committee at their first meeting in 2024.

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Allison Parris
Principal Democratic Services
Officer

Adrian Stanfield
Director of Central Services