

Council

13 May 2025

Part 1 - Public

Matters for Information



Cabinet Member	N/A
Responsible Officer	Damian Roberts, Chief Executive and Returning Officer
Report Author	Allison Parris, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Election of Borough Councillor for Snodland East and Ham Hill Ward

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report of the Returning Officer announces the result of the by-election held on Thursday 1 May 2025.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 This report is for information only and serves to advise all Cllrs of the outcome of the by-election.

4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 Following the creation of a vacancy of a Borough Councillor for the Snodland East and Ham Hill Ward, caused by the death of Cllr Wayne Mallard, an election was held on Thursday 1 May 2025.

5 Result of By-election

- 5.1 The result of the election was as follows:

Chapman Luke	Conservative Party Candidate	543
Loader Shaun	Labour Party	346
Watts Nick	Independent	195
Winterbottom Kim	The Green Party	151

5.2 The turnout at the election was 29.65%.

5.3 Luke Chapman is therefore elected to serve as Councillor for the Snodland East and Ham Hill Ward until the next scheduled Borough Council elections in May 2027. Cllr Chapman has duly made their declaration of acceptance of office.

6 Other Options

6.1 There are no other options to consider as the Borough Council is required to have 44 elected members representing 19 electoral wards.

7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

7.1 A councillor receives a basic allowance under the Members Allowance Scheme. This does not represent budget growth as it replaces the allowance paid to the previous councillor.

8 Risk Assessment

8.1 None

9 Legal Implications

9.1 In accordance with LGA 1972 s83, elected individuals cannot act as a councillor, including attending and voting at meetings, until a declaration of acceptance of office has been signed. This declaration must be made within 2 months from the date of the election. If this deadline is not met, the seat will be declared vacant and a by-election will be held.

9.2 In accordance with the Tonbridge and Malling (Electoral Changes) Order 2022 the Borough Council is required to have 44 elected members representing 19 electoral wards.

10 Consultation and Communications

10.1 The result of the by-election for Snodland East and Ham Hill ward has been announced and published on the Borough Council's website.

11 Implementation

11.1 Cllr Chapman has duly made their declaration of acceptance of office and is an elected member with immediate effect.

12 Cross Cutting Issues

12.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

12.1.1 Limited or low impact on emissions and environment.

12.1.2 Climate change advice has not been sought in the preparation of the options and recommendations in this report.

12.2 Equalities and Diversity

12.2.1 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.

12.3 Other If Relevant

- None

Background Papers	None
Annexes	None