

Council

13 May 2025

Part 1 - Public

Matters for Decision



Cabinet Member	N/A
Responsible Officer	Adrian Stanfield, Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive
Report Author	Allison Parris, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Supplementary Report - Appointments to Outside Bodies 2025/26

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 At each Annual meeting of the Council and beginning of the municipal year, Members are asked to approve appointments to Outside Bodies for the forthcoming year.
- 1.2 There have been a number of minor changes identified since the publication of the previous report and these are detailed in 5.5, 5.7.4 and 5.8. The recommendations have been amended accordingly.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.
- 2.2 Formal appointments reflecting determined political balance arrangements supports effective governance and decision making.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the annual appointments to Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2025/26 be approved, as set out at Annex 5 to the report;
- 3.2 That the non-annual appointments to Outside Bodies for the municipal year 2025/26 be approved, as set out Annex 5 to the report;
- 3.3 That the Allington Community Liaison Group be removed from the Outside Bodies Schedule;
- 3.4 That the Gatwick Airport Noise Management Board Community Forum be removed from the Outside Bodies Schedule;

- 3.5 That the Rochester Airport Delivery Board be removed from the Outside Bodies Schedule;
- 3.6 That Mr Mark Davis be appointed as the Borough Council representative to serve on Tonbridge Town Lands and Richard Mylls Charity for a four-year period.
- 3.7 That the appointments of Mrs Dianne Huntingford and Vivian Branson to serve as Borough Council representatives on the Tonbridge United Charity be extended until May 2027.
- 3.8 That the approach to the Haysden Country Park User Panel adopted in 2021 be noted.

4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 Representatives are appointed to outside bodies on an annual and non-annual basis to express the views of the Borough Council to those bodies on the work undertaken. There is also the opportunity to receive feedback on any issues emerging from those bodies that relate to the Council activities.

5 Proposal

- 5.1 The nominations for annual and non-annual appointments to Outside Bodies are set out in Annex 5.
- 5.2 A number of changes are also recommended to the Outside Bodies schedule as detailed below:

Annual Appointments

- 5.3 Removal of the Allington Community Liaison Group due to the lack of communication and current contact details.
- 5.4 The Borough Council to withdraw from the Gatwick Airport Noise Management Board Community Forum as the majority of business no longer has relevance to Tonbridge and Malling.
- 5.5 Following investigation with neighbouring authorities it was confirmed that the Rochester Airport Delivery Board no longer existed and, therefore, there was no requirement to appoint as an outside body.

Non-Annual Appointments

5.6 Tonbridge Town Lands and Richard Mylls Charity

- 5.6.1 Correspondence has been received from the Clerk to the Town Wardens asking the Borough Council to appoint Mr Mark Davis as Trustee to replace Mr David Davis. This is attached as Annex 5.1.

- 5.6.2 The terms of the Charity require the income to be applied for the benefit of the inhabitants of the former Urban District of Tonbridge and persons appointed as Town Wardens to be residents or to have extensive knowledge of the area. They may be, but need not be, a member of the Council.
- 5.6.3 The Charity has emphasised the value of having a person with a good knowledge of the local area and feel that Mr Davis possesses an extensive knowledge of the work of the Charity and a good understanding of the district having served as a Borough Councillor for the former Cage Green ward until 2023. Mr Davis is also a Trustee of the Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust, having been co-opted following his retirement as a Borough Councillor.
- 5.6.4 Mr Davis has indicated his willingness to accept this nomination.

5.7 **Tonbridge United Charity**

- 5.7.1 Mrs Dianne Huntingford and Vivian Branson were appointed as the Borough Council representatives in April 2021 and their term of office expired at the end of April 2025.
- 5.7.2 The Charity Manager has been contacted to see if they wish to extend the appointments for a further four-year period. At the time of writing, no response has been received.
- 5.7.3 The Charity provides accommodation for people "who from age, ill health, accident or infirmity are wholly or in part unable to maintain themselves by their own exertions". The main activity is the management of the Five Gables cottages at Church Street, Tonbridge, Kent.
- 5.7.4 It is recommended that the appointments of Mrs Huntingford and Vivian Branson be extended until May 2027 in line with other non-annual appointments and pending confirmation from the Charity Manager.

5.8 **Haysden Country Park User Panel**

- 5.8.1 Engagement with the User Panel moved to a six-monthly newsletter following consultation with Members of the Panel in 2021 which indicated that there was no appetite to continue with face-to-face meetings.
- 5.8.2 This approach has been broadly welcomed by the User Panel.

6 **Other Options**

- 6.1 The other options that could be considered are:-
- Nominating another representative(s)

6.2 In light of the comments made in paragraph 5.5.3 it is not considered that alternative representatives should be considered for the Tonbridge Town Lands and Richard Mylls Charity at this time.

7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

7.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report it should be noted that there might be some minor expenditure related to mileage and other claims for expenses.

8 Risk Assessment

8.1 Proper and appropriate political representation is key to good governance and decision making. Appointments to outside bodies encourages greater discussion and collaboration.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from the proposals in this report.

10 Consultation and Communications

10.1 The organisations will be contacted as soon as possible following Annual Council and informed which Cllr will be their outside body representative.

11 Implementation

11.1 If agreed at Annual Council the appointments will come into 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.

Background Papers	None
Annex 5 Annex 5.1	Appointments to Outside Bodies; Correspondence of Clerk to Tonbridge Town Lands and Richard Mylls Charity