

**Council**

**08 July 2025**

**Part 1 - Public**

**Matters for Decision**



Cabinet Member

Cllr M Boughton, Leader

Responsible Officer

Adrian Stanfield, Director of Central Services & Monitoring Officer

Report Author

Allison Parris, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **Appointments to Outside Bodies**

### **1 Summary and Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The statutory annual meeting of Council held on 13 May 2025 made a number of appointments to outside bodies. Subsequent to this meeting a number of changes to the Outside Bodies Schedule are recommended.

### **2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area**

- 2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.
- 2.2 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.

### **3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the Southern Water Local Authorities Stakeholder Group be added to the Schedule of Outside Bodies for annual appointments for the reasons set out in 5.2 of the report;
- 3.2 That Cllr D King be the Borough Council's appointment to the Southern Water Local Authorities Stakeholder Group with immediate effect;
- 3.3 That Cllr L Chapman be the Borough Council's appointment to the PATROL.

### **4 Introduction and Background**

- 4.1 Following the meeting of Annual Council, the Borough Council were advised that the Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) Adjudication Joint

Committee were moving to in-person meetings in London. This was no longer convenient for the appointed Cllrs.

- 4.2 It was also suggested that the Southern Water Local Authority Stakeholder Group be considered as an addition to the Outside Bodies Schedule.

## **5 Proposal**

### **5.1 Appointments to PATROL**

- 5.1.1 It was proposed that Cllr L Chapman be appointed as the Borough Council representative to the PATROL Joint Committee with immediate effect.

- 5.1.2 Cllr Chapman has indicated a willingness to accept this appointment.

### **5.2 Southern Water Local Authorities Stakeholder Group**

- 5.2.1 Wealden District Council co-ordinates the Southern Water Local Authority Stakeholder Group which includes representatives from more than 20 councils across the southeast.

- 5.2.2 Its main objective is to act as a platform for local authorities to come together across political party lines, to hold Southern Water (and their regulators) to account for the poor quality of waterways and coastline.

- 5.2.3 It was set up in the aftermath of a catalogue of issues including flooding, sewage seeping into people's homes, gardens and roads, the ongoing problem of discharges into rivers and waterways and the inability to deal with additional development.

- 5.2.4 Various meetings have taken place since the Group's inception (some of which have included special speakers from Southern Water, the Environment Agency and most recently OFWAT) which have all been well received and continue to be ongoing.

- 5.2.5 Further information is available on the Wealden District Council website <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/southern-water-stakeholder-group/>

- 5.2.6 Cllr D Davis has previously attended this Group on an informal basis as the Chair of Housing and Planning Scrutiny Committee.

- 5.2.7 It is proposed that this arrangement be formalised by adding the Stakeholder Group to the Borough Council's schedule of Outside Bodies for annual appointments and that Cllr D King be appointed as the representative for Tonbridge and Malling as the current Chair of the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee.

## **6 Other Options**

6.1 There are no other options to present.

## **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 councillor will be their outside body representative.

## **11 Implementation**

11.1 If agreed 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.

12.3 Other If Relevant

- None

Background Papers	<a href="https://www.wealden.gov.uk/southern-water-stakeholder-group/">https://www.wealden.gov.uk/southern-water-stakeholder-group/</a>
Annexes	None