

Council

12 May 2026

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

Appointments to Outside Bodies 2026/27

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.

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 2026/27 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 2026/27 be approved, as set out at Annex 5 to the report;
- 3.3 That the Maidstone Mediation Scheme be removed from the Outside Bodies Schedule;
- 3.4 That the Youth and Community Centres (KCC) be removed from the Outside Bodies Schedule;
- 3.5 That the amalgamation of the Lower Medway Drainage Board into a newly established North Kent Marshes Water Level Management Board as of 1 April 2026 be noted;

- 3.6 That the term of office for Mr Eddie Prescott, Trustee at Tonbridge Town Lands and Richard Mylls Charity be extended until October 2030 or ‘vesting day’ of the new unitary authority whichever is sooner; and
- 3.7 That the term of office for Mrs Diane Huntingford, Trustee at Tonbridge Town Lands and Richard Mylls Charity be extended until October 2030 or ‘vesting day’ of the new unitary authority whichever is sooner.

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

- 5.2.1 Removal of the KCC Youth and Community Centres/Project Management as the current appointee (Cllr Keers) has had no contact with them. Upon further investigation, there was no present knowledge of this group within the County Council and it is assumed that this an historic body and no longer operational.
- 5.2.2 Removal of the Maidstone Mediation Scheme as the organisation has ceased to operate.
- 5.2.3 Change of name for the Lower Medway Drainage Board as it amalgamated with the newly established North Kent Marshes Water Level Management Board as of 1 April 2026. The number of annual appointments remain unchanged.

Tonbridge Town Lands and Richard Mylls Charity – Non-annual Appointments

- 5.2.4 The Clerk of the organisation has asked the Borough Council to consider extending the terms of office for two trustees.
- 5.2.5 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.

- 5.2.6 That the term of office for Mr Eddie Prescott be extended for a further four-year period.
- 5.2.7 That the term of office for Mrs Diane Huntingford be extended for a further four-year period.
- 5.2.8 The Charity has previously emphasised the value of having a person with a good knowledge of the local area and Mr Prescott and Mrs Huntingford possess an extensive understanding of the work of the Charity and the district.
- 5.2.9 Both appointees have indicated their willingness to accept this nomination.
- 5.2.10 As the Borough Council in its current form will no longer exist after 2028 due to Local Government Reorganisation and to provide the Charity with some security, it is proposed that the term of office be extended to October 2030 or 'vesting day' of the new unitary authority whichever is sooner.

6 Other Options

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

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

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.

12.3 Other If Relevant

- None

Background Papers	None
Annex 5	Appointments to Outside Bodies