COUNCIL (ACTING AS CORPORATE TRUSTEE OF THE CHARITY KNOWN AS THE COBTREE MANOR ESTATE) MEETING

15 JULY 2020

REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES FOLLOWING A VACANCY

Final Decision-Maker	Council
Lead Head of Service	Angela Woodhouse, Head of Policy, Communications and Governance
Lead Officer and Report Author	Ryan O'Connell, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

Executive Summary

As there is a vacancy on the Council it is a requirement that the allocation of seats and political balance is reviewed at the earliest possible opportunity. This report sets out the outcome of the review.

Purpose of Report

Decision

This report makes the following recommendation to Council:

1. That it be noted that there is no impact on the seats on the Committee; and

2. That the wishes of the Group Leaders with regard to Membership of the Committee be accepted as at Appendix 1.

Timetable	
Meeting	*Date*
Council Meeting	15 July 2020

REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES FOLLOWING A VACANCY

1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	There are no direct impacts on corporate priorities arising from this, but the Committees when in place discharge the functions delegated to them having regard where appropriate to the Council's strategic objectives.	Democratic Services Officer
Risk Management	See section 5 below.	Democratic Services Officer
Financial	The Committees appointed having regard to the political balance requirements form part of the plan for the committee system of governance and as such there are no additional financial implications.	Section 151 Officer
Staffing	There are no staffing implications.	Democratic Services Officer
Legal	The Council must allocate seats on Committees to the different political groups to reflect the size of each political group – section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Consideration should be given to the matters outlined in the legislation.	Head of Mid-Kent Legal Services
Privacy and Data Protection	No specific issues arise.	Data Protection Officer
Equalities	The review will ensure an equitable political representation in membership of Committees.	Equalities and Corporate Policy Officer
Crime and Disorder	No specific issues arise.	Democratic Services Officer

Procurement	No specific issues arise.	Democratic Services Officer
Cross Cutting Objectives	No specific issues arise.	Democratic Services Officer

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has a statutory requirement under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to ensure political proportionality in the membership of Committees. As a result of the vacancy, the composition of the Council is as follows:

Conservative	24
Liberal Democrat	20
Independent	4
Labour	4
Independent Maidstone	2
Vacancy	1
Total	55

2.2 Due to there being a single vacancy there is no impact on the balance of either the Cobtree Manor Estate Charity Committee or the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment Museum Trust Committee.

2.3 However, following the vacancy arising there is currently a Conservative vacancy on the Committee. Therefore the wishes of the Conservative Group Leader are recommended to be accepted in this regard, these are set out at Appendix 1.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

3.1 The wishes of Group Leaders as to Membership of Committees should be accepted.

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The wishes of Group Leaders as to Membership of Committees should be accepted.

5. RISK

5.1 The review of the allocation of seats on Committees will ensure an appropriate political balance in membership of Committees.

6.   CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

6.1   Group Leaders have been made aware of this report coming to Council and no additional changes to Committee Memberships have been requested beyond those outlined.

7.   NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

7.1   Membership of the Committees will be implemented immediately.

8.   REPORT APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Committee Membership

9.   BACKGROUND PAPERS

None