

Report from the Democracy and General Purposes Committee – Outside Bodies 2024/25

Timetable	
<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>
Democracy and General Purposes Committee	19 June 2024
Council	17 July 2024

Wards affected	All
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Executive Summary

This report asks the Council to amend the allocation of Outside Bodies seats between the Democracy and General Purposes Committee and Cabinet.

On 19 June 2024 the Democracy and General Purposes Committee considered the Council's outside bodies allocations and arrangements.

This report makes the following recommendations:

1. That Council amend the constitution to properly reflect which Outside Bodies are related to Cabinet portfolios and which are for appointment by the Democracy and General Purposes Committee (as set out in table 1.3); and
2. That the Maidstone Street Pastors have the limitation to High Street Ward members only, removed.

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1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

1.1 Following the Annual Meeting of Council, with revised Cabinet appointments and Part B to the constitution, the constitution is recommended to be amended to reflect the in practice allocation of Outside Body vacancies to Cabinet Portfolios. Those bodies highlighted below each have one of their vacancies that is allocated to a Cabinet Member, as they were last year. It is recommended that the outside bodies allocation in the constitution is amended to reflect this.

1.2 An additional outside body, Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board, has been included in the new portfolios for Cabinet Members. The Committee are asked to consider whether to agree to amend the outside body allocations in the constitution to reflect this. The Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board appointments are currently held by non-Cabinet members and are not vacant, this would mean that when agreed by Council those Members would be removed from that outside body. The Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board has the power to raise a levy (currently £138,430) which is a direct cost for the council. It is therefore appropriate for executive members to participate in the decision on the levy through membership of the Board. Membership of the Board will also allow the relevant cabinet members to influence issues of strategic importance to the council around water management and flood resilience.

1.3

Outside Body	Cabinet Member Representative	Number of Cabinet Positions
Maidstone Twinning Association	Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Safety	1 position of 4
Maidstone Sea Cadets	Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Safety	1 position of 2
Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board	Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery, and Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	2 positions of 2

1.4 Due to the recent boundary changes and that the outside body works across more than one ward, Maidstone Street Pastors Management Committee should be opened up beyond only High Street Ward members.

2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND WHY NOT RECOMMENDED

- 2.1 **Alternative 1:** To not make amendments to reflect current arrangements, or consider changing the outside body allocations to the Cabinet. This is not recommended as it would not reflect what is happening in practice nor achieve the points raised in paragraph 1.2 above.
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2. APPENDICES

- 2.1 None
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3. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 3.1 None