



# SELECTION & CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Notice of a Meeting, to be held in the Committee Room No. 2, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on **Tuesday, 5th December, 2023 at 6.00 pm. (PLEASE NOTE START TIME)**

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The Members of the Selection & Constitutional Review Committee are:-

Councillor Ovenden (Chair)  
Councillor Bell (Vice-Chair)

Cllrs. Buchanan, Campkin, Chilton, Feacey, Forest, Gauder, Harman, Heyes, Spain, Wright

## Agenda

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<b>1. Apologies/Substitutes</b>	
To receive Notification of Substitutes in accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2(c).	
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>	3 - 4
To declare any interests which fall under the following categories, as explained on the attached document:	
a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)	
b) Other Significant Interests (OSI)	
c) Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests	
See Agenda Item 2 for further details.	
<b>3. Minutes</b>	5 - 20
To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023.	
<b>4. Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Places 2023</b>	21 - 42
<b>5. Term of Office of Leader of the Council</b>	43 - 46

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6. **Term of Office of Mayor**

47 - 50

7. **Update on Appointments to Committees**

The Committee is note and approve the following appointments:

- Audit Committee – Cllr. Shilton (replacing Cllr. Feacey)

27 November 2023

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## Declarations of Interest (see also “Advice to Members” below)

- (a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)** under the Localism Act 2011, relating to items on this agenda. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.

A Member who declares a DPI in relation to any item will need to leave the meeting for that item (unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted).

- (b) **Other Significant Interests (OSI)** under the Kent Code of Conduct relating to items on this agenda. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared, and the agenda item(s) to which it relates must be stated.

A Member who declares an OSI in relation to any item will need to leave the meeting before the debate and vote on that item (unless a relevant Dispensation has been granted).

However, prior to leaving, the Member may address the Committee in the same way that a member of the public may do so.

- (c) **Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests** not required to be disclosed under (a) and (b), i.e. announcements made for transparency alone, such as:

- Membership of amenity societies, Town/Community/Parish Councils, residents' groups or other outside bodies that have expressed views or made representations, but the Member was not involved in compiling or making those views/representations, or
- Where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person, or
- Where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position.

[Note: Where an item would be likely to affect the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc.; OR where an item is an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc., there is likely to be an OSI or in some cases a DPI. ALSO, holding a committee position/office within an amenity society or other outside body, or having any involvement in compiling/making views/representations by such a body, may give rise to a perception of bias and require the Member to take no part in any motion or vote.]

### **Advice to Members on Declarations of Interest:**

- (a) Government Guidance on DPI is available in DCLG's Guide for Councillors, at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/5962/2193362.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5962/2193362.pdf)
- (b) The Kent Code of Conduct was adopted by the Full Council on 19 July 2012, and a copy can be found in the Constitution alongside the Council's Good Practice Protocol for Councillors dealing with Planning Matters. See <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/media/2098/z-word5-democratic-services-constitution-2019-constitution-of-abc-may-2019-part-5.pdf>
- (c) Where a Member declares a committee position or office within, or membership of, an outside body that has expressed views or made representations, this will be taken as a statement that the Member was not involved in compiling or making them and has retained an open mind on the item(s) in question. If this is not the case, the situation must be explained.

**If any Member has any doubt about any interest which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, or from other Solicitors in Legal and Democracy as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.**

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## Selection & Constitutional Review Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Selection & Constitutional Review Committee held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**.

### **Present:**

Cllr. Ovenden (Chairman);

Cllrs. Bell, Campkin, Chilton, Feacey, Forest, Gauder, Harman, Heyes, Spain, Wright.

### **Apologies:**

Cllr. Michael.

### **Also Present:**

Cllr. Ledger.

Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Member Services Manager.

## **71 Election of Chairman**

### **Resolved:**

**That Councillor Ovenden be elected as Chairman of the Committee for this Meeting.**

## **72 Election of Vice-Chairman**

### **Resolved:**

**That the Committee did not consider it necessary to elect a Vice-Chairman of the Committee for this Meeting.**

## **73 Declarations of Interest**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>
Feacey	Made a Voluntary Announcement as Chairman of the Ashford Volunteer Centre.	76
Gauder	Made a Voluntary Announcement as she worked for the Ashford Mediation Service.	76

## **74 Minutes**

### **Resolved:**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.**

## **75 Background and Principles of Political Balance and Administrative Structure**

The Member Services Manager introduced the report which presented the Political Balance for the Authority for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year, and sought to agree any other constitutional matters which needed to be recommended to the Meeting of the Full Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023. There was a change to the balance following the decision of Councillors Barrett and Buchanan to leave the Conservative Group and become Independent Councillors. The agreed Political Balance is contained at Appendix A to these Minutes.

The Member Services Manager ran through the membership of Committees and Board in Appendix B to the report one by one. With input from Members, the proposed membership for 2023/24 was completed including the nominations for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen. This is contained at Appendix B to these Minutes.

### **Recommended:**

**That (i) the Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the Political Balance of the Authority as contained at Appendix A to these Minutes, and that the Council agrees that the requirements of the Political Balance Regulations be not applied to the Membership of the Joint Transportation Board, the Appeals Committee and its Panels, the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee (and its Panels), the Standards Committee, and the Sub-Committees of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees established under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005.**

**(ii) the Committee recommends to Council that the following Committees be constituted for the Municipal Year as detailed in Part 3 of the Constitution:**

**Appeals  
Appointments  
Audit  
Investigation and Disciplinary  
Joint Arrangements – Joint Transportation Board  
Licensing  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Planning  
Regulatory  
Selection and Constitutional Review**

## **Standards**

**NB: Details of Members appointed to Membership of each Committee etc by Group Leaders is shown at Appendix B to these Minutes. Note: This is subject to amendments from Group Leaders.**

- (iii) the Committee recommends that the Council appoint the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for each Committee etc. as shown in Appendix B.**
- (iv) the remaining seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be allocated to Councillor Buchanan.**
- (v) the remaining seat on the Planning Committee remain vacant and the Committee operate with 13 Voting Members and 1 ex-officio Member under the current Political Balance.**
- (vi) the remaining seat on the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee be allocated to Councillor Buchanan.**
- (vii) the make-up of the Cabinet for the remainder of 2023/24 be noted.**
- (viii) the membership of Cabinet Boards, Advisory Committees, Task Groups and Panels for the remainder of 2023/24, as set out in Appendix C to these Minutes, be noted.**

## **76 Appointment of Members of, or Liaison Members to, Outside Bodies**

The report advised that further to the report to the last meeting of this Committee which sought a majority of Liaison Member appointments, a small number of the bodies the Council appoint to had come back explaining that they needed either Trustee Members or Voting Members for their own constitutional reasons. The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer explained that the report sought to extend the delegation previously given to him to make additional formal Trustee or Voting Member appointments, subject to the receipt of confirmation that they were reasonably required and that appropriate insurances were in place for each year of appointments to protect against risk of personal liability arising from undertaking the role.

### **Resolved:**

**That the Committee delegate the making of the formal Trustee or Voting Member annual appointments to those bodies now asking for the appointments to be made in capacities other than a Liaison Member, (or any other organisations who subsequently request), to the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer. Appointments will be subject to the Solicitor to the Council being satisfied that they are reasonably required by reason of**

**statutory or constitutional provisions and that appropriate insurances are in place for each year of appointment to protect against risk of personal liability arising from undertaking the role in question.**

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**APPENDIX A**  
**(Minute No. 75/7/23 refers)**

**THE POLITICAL BALANCE CALCULATION**  
**JULY 2023**

**A All Committees to which balance applies**

	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Seats/Committee</b>		<b>Total Seats</b>
1 x 12	Overview and Scrutiny	12	=	12
1 x 14	Planning	14	=	14
1 x 13	Licensing	13	=	13
1 x 13	Regulatory	13	=	13
1 x 12	Selection	12	=	12
1 x 8	Audit	8	=	8
1 x 5	Appointments	5	=	5
			<b>Total</b>	<u>77</u>

**B. Percentage of group in relation to total membership of the authority**

47 members =		% (to 2 decimal places)
17 Conservative	=	36.17
11 Labour	=	23.40
9 Ashford Independent	=	19.15
8 Green	=	17.02
1 Independent	=	2.13
1 Independent	=	2.13
		<hr/> <b>100</b> <hr/>

**C.1 Allocation of Seats on Committees in proportion to Group strength**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>AI</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1 x 12 O&S	4	3	2	2	1	12
1 x 14 Planning	5	3	3	2	1	14
1 x 12 Selection	4	3	2	2	1	12
1 x 13 Licensing	5	3	2	3		13
1 x 13 Regulatory	5	3	3	2		13
1 x 8 Audit	3	2	2	1		8
1 x 5 Appointments	2	1	1	1		5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28 (27.85)</b>	<b>18 (18.02)</b>	<b>15 (14.74)</b>	<b>13 (13.11)</b>	<b>3*</b>	<b>77</b>

\* Under the draft calculation all Groups have received their overall entitlement to seats across all Committees. There is one seat on each of the Overview and Scrutiny, Planning and Selection and Constitutional Review Committees to be allocated. It is therefore proposed to offer these seats to Independent Members. One of the Independent Members, Councillor Barrett is a Cabinet Member and so cannot sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is therefore proposed that Councillor Buchanan is offered this seat. It is also proposed for Councillor Buchanan to be offered the seat on the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee. With regard to the vacant seat on the Planning Committee, both Independent Councillors have declined this seat. Given that all Groups have received their overall entitlement to seats across all Committees under the draft calculation, no other Group is entitled to take this seat. It is therefore proposed that this seat remain vacant and the Committee operate with 13 Voting Members and 1 ex-officio Member under the current Political Balance. These recommendations need to be agreed by the Full Council.

**C.2 Allocation of seats on all ordinary Committees to achieve overall proportionality**

**Political Group entitlement in relation to all seats: 77**

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>27.85</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Labour</b>	<b>18.02</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Ashford Independent</b>	<b>14.74</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Green</b>	<b>13.11</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>13</b>

<b>Independent</b>		<b>=</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Independent</b>		<b>=</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Independent</b>		<b>=</b>	<b>1</b>

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**77**

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**D. Committees etc. to which balance will not apply either as a direct result of joint arrangements or the Council agreeing, i.e. no member votes against this arrangement, on each occasion the Council adopts a revised political balance for the Authority.**

*1 x 15	Appeals	3 Members per meeting drawn on rota from a Panel of 15 Members (which does not meet as a Committee)	=	3
*1 x 15	Investigation & Disciplinary	3 Members per meeting drawn on rota from a Panel of 15 Members (which does not meet as a Committee)	=	3
* 1 x 7	Joint Transportation Board		=	7
*1 x 3	Licensing Sub-Committee (3 Member Panels)	3 Members per meeting drawn on rota from a Panel of 13 Members (which does meet as a Committee so is itself balanced)	=	3
*1 x 3	Regulatory Sub-Committee (3 Member Panels)	3 Members per meeting drawn on rota from a Panel of 13 Members (which does meet as a Committee so is itself balanced)	=	3

\* Council's choice as to whether balance will apply to this Committee. **This may only happen if no Member votes against this arrangement.**

x Due to the Joint Arrangements and the manner in which seats are allocated by the Kent County Council, it is impossible to have an overall balanced allocation of seats.

Committee	Con	Lab	AI	Green	Total
<b>*1 x 15 Appeals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>*1 x 15 Inv &amp; Dis</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>*1 x 7 Joint Transportation</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>**1 x 8 Standards</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

- \* **The requirements of the 'Political Balance' regulations be not applied to the membership of the Appeals Committee and its Panels, the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee and its Panels and the Licensing and Regulatory Panels of 3 Members which are drawn for each meeting.**
  
- x **Due to the Joint Arrangements and the manner in which seats are allocated by the Kent County Council, it is impossible to have an overall balanced allocation of seats.**
  
- \*\* **Standards – broadly politically balanced as membership is based on posts.**

**APPENDIX B**

(Minute No. 75/7/23 refers)

**SELECTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS, INCLUDING CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN**

On the basis of the draft Political Balance Calculation agreed with Group Leaders the entitlement to seats is set out below.

The Committee has recommended the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each Committee etc, for appointment in accordance with the Constitution, by the Full Council.

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12 Members)**

Members of the Cabinet may not be appointed to this Committee

<b>Conservative</b> <b>(4)</b>	<b>Labour</b> <b>(3)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent</b> <b>(2)</b>	<b>Green</b> <b>(2)</b>	<b>Ind</b> <b>(1)</b>
Bartlett	Chilton (VC)	Ledger	Arnold	Buchanan
Bell (Ch)	Joseph	Michael	Meaden	
Feacey	C Suddards			
Shilton				

**Audit Committee (8 Members)**

<b>Conservative</b> <b>(3)</b>	<b>Labour</b> <b>(2)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent</b> <b>(2)</b>	<b>Green</b> <b>(1)</b>
Feacey	Dean	Hayward	Gambling (VC)
Krause (Ch)	Hallett	McGeever	
Smith			

**Planning Committee (14 Members) (plus 1 ex officio)**

**Training is compulsory for anyone sitting on the Planning Committee.**

<b>Conservative (5)</b>	<b>Labour (3)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (3)</b>	<b>Green (2)</b>	<b>Ind (1)</b>
Blanford (Ch)	Chilton	Betty	Nilsson	<b>Vacant</b>
Brunger-Randall	Gathern	Ledger	Walder	
Heyes (VC)	Spain	McGeever		
Mulholland		Harman (EO)		
Roden				

**Selection & Constitutional Review Committee (12 Members)**

<b>Conservative (4)</b>	<b>Labour (3)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (2)</b>	<b>Green (2)</b>	<b>Ind (1)</b>
Bell (VC)	Chilton	Harman	Campkin	Buchanan
Feacey	Gauder	Ovenden (Ch)	Wright	
Forest	Spain			
Heyes				

### Licensing Committee (13 Members)

Group Leaders are reminded of the importance of nominating Members who are available to attend day-time hearings of the Licensing Sub-Committee. Ideally, membership of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees will be the same to aid continuity.

<b>Conservative (5)</b>	<b>Labour (3)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (2)</b>	<b>Green (3)</b>
Feacey (Ch)	Hallett	McGeever	Arnold
Krause	Leavey	Michael	Walder (VC)
Pickering	L Suddards		Wright
Shilton			
Smith			

### Regulatory Committee (13 Members)

Group Leaders are reminded of the importance of nominating Members who are available to attend day-time hearings of the Regulatory Sub-Committee. Ideally, membership of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees will be the same to aid continuity.

<b>Conservative (5)</b>	<b>Labour (3)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (3)</b>	<b>Green (2)</b>
Feacey (Ch)	Hallett	McGeever	Walder (VC)
Krause	Leavey	Michael	Wright
Pickering	L Suddards	Townend	
Shilton			
Smith			

### Appointments Committee (5 Members)

<b>Conservative (2)</b>	<b>Labour (1)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (1)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
Feacey	Chilton	Ovenden	Meaden (VC)
Pickering (Ch)			

**Appeals (15 Members – 3 Members to be drawn per meeting)**

Members should not be a Member of the Cabinet. Group Leaders are reminded of the importance of nominating Members who are available to attend day-time meetings.

<b>Conservative (5)</b>	<b>Labour (4)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (3)</b>	<b>Green (3)</b>
Blanford	Dean	Ledger	Arnold
Hicks	Hallett	McGeever	Giles
Mulholland	Leavey	Townend	Nilsson
Pickering	C Suddards		
Shilton			

**Investigation & Disciplinary Committee (15 Members – 3 Members to be drawn per meeting)**

To include at least one Member of the Cabinet, Group Leaders and the Chairmen of the Overview & Scrutiny and Audit Committees

<b>Conservative (5)</b>	<b>Labour (4)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (3)</b>	<b>Green (3)</b>
Mrs Bell	Chilton	Hayward	Campkin
Bell	Dean	Ovenden	Giles
Blanford	Spain	Townend	Wright
Feacey	L Suddards		
Krause			

**Standards Committee (8 Members)**

Broadly Politically Balanced. Should include at least one Member of the Cabinet plus the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

<b>Conservative (3)</b>	<b>Labour (2)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (2)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
Bell	Chilton	Harman (Ch)	Gambling
Mrs Bell (VC)	Gathern	Pauley	
Pickering			



**Joint Transportation Board (7 Members)**

<b>Conservative (3)</b>	<b>Labour (2)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (1)</b>	<b>Green (1)</b>
Feacey	Gathern	Michael	Meaden
Forest	Joseph		
Heyes (Ch)			

**MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, TASK  
GROUPS AND PANELS FOR 2023/24**

The following are set out for information only as establishment and appointments are in the gift of the Leader of the Council.

**Boards**

**Trading and Enterprise Board (4 Members and 1 Observer) – Only Cabinet Members can be appointed as Members of this Board.**

<b>(4)</b>
Betty (Ch)
Harman
Ovenden
Walder

\* Councillor Bell to be appointed as Observer (Leader of Largest Opposition Group).

\*\* Councillor Betty (as Chairman) to be the Shareholder Representative under the Articles of Association of the Trading Companies.

**Ashford Strategic Delivery Board (6 Members)**

<b>(6)</b>
Betty
Campkin
Harman
Ovenden (Ch)
Walder
Bell*

\* Councillor Bell to be appointed as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Advisory Committees, Task Groups and Panels**

**Economic Regeneration and Investment Advisory Committee (5 Members)**

<b>(5)</b>
Betty
Campkin
Ovenden (Ch)
Walder
Bartlett

**Joint Consultative Committee (6 Members) – At least one Member from each Group – the remainder from the Administration.**

<b>Conservative (1)</b>	<b>Labour (1)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (2)</b>	<b>Green (2)</b>
Pickering	C Suddards	Ledger	Nilsson (Ch)
		Michael	Wright

**Local Government and Polling Districts Task Group (10 Members)**

<b>Conservative (4)</b>	<b>Labour (2)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent (2)</b>	<b>Green (2)</b>
Mrs Bell	Anckorn	Harman (Ch)	Meaden
Hicks	Spain	Hayward	Walder
Mulholland			
Smith			

**Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group (10 Members plus 1 ex-officio)**

<b>Conservative</b> <b>(4)</b>	<b>Labour</b> <b>(2)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent</b> <b>(2)</b>	<b>Green</b> <b>(2)</b>
Bartlett (Ch)	Hallett	Ledger (VC)	Meaden
Mrs Bell	Spain	Michael	Walder
Blanford		Harman (EO)	
Roden			

**Community Grants Panel (7 Members including the relevant Portfolio Holder)**

<b>Conservative</b> <b>(3)</b>	<b>Labour</b> <b>(2)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent</b> <b>(1)</b>	<b>Green</b> <b>(1)</b>
Feacey	Dean	Hayward	Nilsson
Link	L Suddards		
Smith			

**Member Training Panel (8 Members)**

<b>Conservative</b> <b>(3)</b>	<b>Labour</b> <b>(2)</b>	<b>Ashford Independent</b> <b>(2)</b>	<b>Green</b> <b>(1)</b>
Mrs Bell	Anckorn	Betty	Wright
Pickering	Gathern	Pauley (Ch)	
Smith			



**Agenda Item No:**

**Report To:** Selection and Constitutional Review Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Report Title:** Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Places 2023

**Report Author &  
Job Title:** Paul Libreri  
Electoral Services Manager

**Portfolio Holder  
Portfolio Holder for:** Cllr Kate Walder  
Legal & Democratic

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to review the proposals arising from a statutory review of parliamentary polling districts and places. A consultation on the proposed polling districts and places was held in the period beginning 25 September 2023 and concluding on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

**Significantly  
Affected Wards:**

Beaver, Goat Lees, Tenterden North, Weald Central

**Recommendations:**

That the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee approves the recommendations of the Local Government and Polling District Task Group and the proposed polling districts and polling places scheme as set out in **Appendix 1** of the report.

**Background  
Papers:**

Appendix 1 List of proposed polling districts and polling places.

**Contact:**

Paul Libreri – Electoral Services Manager  
paul.libreri@ashford.gov.uk – Tel: (01233)330462

## Report Title: Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Places 2023

### Introduction and Background

1. Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires every local authority to conduct a full review of parliamentary polling districts and places every five years. The next statutory review period is from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
2. It is the duty of the council of each district or London Borough to divide their area into polling districts for the purpose of UK parliamentary elections for so much of any constituency as is situated in their area and to keep those districts under review.
3. An interim review was undertaken in 2022 in advance of the 2023 Borough and Parish elections.
4. The Local Government and Polling Districts Task Group met on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to consider the proposed polling districts and polling places.
5. New parliamentary constituencies will be in place for the next UK parliamentary elections. The Returning Officer for Ashford will be responsible for two parliamentary constituencies, Ashford County Constituency and the Weald of Kent County Constituency. Ashford CC will include two wards in Folkestone & Hythe. The Weald of Kent constituency will include seven wards in Maidstone and two in Tunbridge Wells.
6. The review of polling districts, place and stations in Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells is the responsibility of those Local Authorities although the Ashford Returning Officer will be asked for her comments.

### Recommendations

7. The Local Government and Polling District Task Group recommends that the Selection and Constitutional Review Committees approves the polling district scheme as per **Appendix 1** attached and designates each ward as the polling place.
8. That the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee delegates the power to make changes to polling places to the Returning Officer/Acting Returning Officer for each election held in Ashford.
9. The report recommends the following changes to the current arrangements
  - Beaver Ward: in polling District BE1–Beaver, move the polling station from Beaver Green Primary school to a temporary building within the polling district if a suitable site for a temporary building can be located. If a suitable site cannot be found, the school will be used.

- Goat Lees Ward: Incorporate the properties in polling district DW4X- Sandhurst Farm into polling district GL1- Boughton Aluph and delete polling district DW4X as DW4X is now within Goat Lees Ward.
- Tenterden North: Combine polling districts TN1 – Homewood with polling district TN2 – East Cross as they share a polling place and are within the same ward, parish and county boundary.
- Weald Central: New polling station located in the Community Management Office, Chilmington Green to serve polling district WC2 – Chilmington Green.

10. In some cases it has not been possible to find a suitable location for a polling station within the polling district or ward. The Selection and Constitution Committee are requested to designate the following polling places located outside of the ward as polling places for the polling districts listed:

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Designated Polling Place</b>
AE1-Newtown	Aylesford & East Stour	Swan Community Centre, Turner Close
AE3-Aylesford Green	Aylesford & East Stour	The Scout Hut, Breadlands Road
BY2 - The Ridge	Bybrook	Spearpoint Pavilion, The Ridge
CL1 - Little Burton Farm	Conningbrook and Little Burton Farm	Conningbrook Hotel, Canterbury Road
DW2 - Eastwell (Part) The Towers	Downs West	Goat Lees Community Hall, Trinity Road
DW4 - Boughton Aluph (Part) The Towers	Downs West	Goat Lees Community Hall, Trinity Road
GL2 - Kennington North	Goat Lees	United Reformed Methodist Church, Faversham Road,
GL2X Grosvenor Road	Goat Lees	United Reformed Methodist Church, Faversham Road,
HI2-Sevington North	Highfield	WI Hall, Church Road, Willesborough
KE1X-Faversham Road	Kennington	WI Hall, Faversham Road
MSF2 – Sevington South	Mersham, Sevington South with Finberry	The Mountbatten Hall, The Forstal
PFN1 - Park Farm North	Park Farm North	Kingsnorth Recreation Centre, Field View
RTW1-Tenterden West	Rolvenden & Tenterden West	St Mildred`s Church Hall, Church Road
ROM1 - Westhawk	Roman	The Limes Community Garden, The Limes
SGE1X-Chilmington	Singleton East	Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close
SGW1 - Singleton West	Singleton West	Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close
WA1 - Singleton South	Washford	Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close
WA3 – Stanhope Speldhurst	Washford	Mobile Polling Station, Junction of Langney Drive and Stanhope Road

## Consultation Planned or Undertaken

11. A consultation on the interim review of polling districts and polling places was held from 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and concluding on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023
12. Notice of the review and details of the proposed polling districts and polling stations were made available to all Members and were published on the Ashford Borough Council website at: <https://www.ashford.gov.uk/your-council/register-to-vote-and-elections/electoral-boundaries-and-reviews/2023-polling-district-review>

## Reasons for Supporting Option Recommended

13. The arrangements should be in place in time to facilitate preparations for elections to be held in 2024.

## Next Steps in Process

14. Final proposals go to Full Council on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 for approval.

## Conclusion

15. The polling station scheme set out in **Appendix 1** of the report including any amendments recommended by the Local Government and Polling District Task Group should be in place to allow for the publication of the electoral register with revised polling districts and new parliamentary boundaries by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

## Portfolio Holder's Views

16. The portfolio holder is a member of the Local Government and Polling Districts Task Group.



## Appendix 1 - Proposed Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2023

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Aylesford & East Stour	South Willesborough & Newtown	Newtown	Ashford East	AE1-Newtown	751	Swan Community Centre, Turner Close (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC
Aylesford & East Stour	South Willesborough & Newtown	South Willesborough	Ashford East	AE2-South Willesborough	2,445	Swan Community Centre, Turner Close	No Change	Ashford CC
Aylesford & East Stour	None	None	Ashford East	AE3-Aylesford Green	1,248	The Scout Hut, Breadlands Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC

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Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Beaver	None	None	Ashford South	BE1 - Beaver	1,470	Beaver Green Nursery School, Cuckoo Lane	Consider relocating polling station to temporary building if a suitable site can be found.	Ashford CC
Beaver	None	None	Ashford South	BE2 - Brookfield	2,026	South Ashford Baptist Church, Brookfield Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Beaver	None	None	Ashford South	BE3 - Woolreeds	1,226	St Francis Church Hall, Cryol Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Beaver	None	None	Ashford East	BE3X - Farrow Court	7	St Francis Church Hall, Cryol Road	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Biddenden	Biddenden	None	Tenterden	BI1 - Biddenden	2,429	Biddenden Clubhouse, (Old Hall), Tenterden Road	No Change	Weald of Kent CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Bockhanger	Kennington	Grosvenor Hall	Ashford Central	BO1 - Grosvenor Hall	2,017	Gerlach House Sheltered Housing, Beecholme Drive	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Constituency
Bircholt	Brook	None	Ashford Rural East	BLT1 - Brook	257	Brook Village Hall, The Street	No Change	Ashford CC
Bircholt	Hastingleigh	None	Ashford Rural East	BLT2 - Hastingleigh	198	Evington Hall, Hastingleigh	No Change	Ashford CC
Bircholt	Brabourne	None	Ashford Rural East	BLT3 - Brabourne	333	Brabourne Village Hall, Lees Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Bircholt	Brabourne	None	Ashford Rural East	BLT4 - Brabourne Lees	715	Brabourne Baptist Church Hall, Plain Road	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Bybrook	Kennington	Bybrook	Ashford Central	BY1-Bybrook	1,306	St Mary's Community Centre, Ryland Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Bybrook	Kennington	Bybrook	Ashford Rural East	BY2 - The Ridge	772	Spearpoint Pavilion The Ridge (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Charing	Charing	Charing Hill	Ashford Rural West	CH1 - Charing	2,186	Charing Parish Hall, Station Road	No Change	Weald of Kent

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Conningbrook and Little Burton Farm	Kennington	Little Burton Farm	Ashford Rural East	CL1 - Little Burton Farm	1,533	Conningbrook Hotel, Canterbury Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC
Conningbrook and Little Burton Farm	Kennington	Little Burton Farm	Ashford Rural East	CL2 – Conningbrook Lakes	399	Julie Rose Stadium	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Downs North	Chilham	None	Ashford Rural East	DN1 - Dane Street And Shottenden	927	Chilham Village Hall, Maidstone Road	No Change	Weald of Kent CC
Downs North	Chilham	None	Ashford Rural East	DN2 - Old Wives Lees	505	Old Wives Lees Village Hall, Long Hill	No Change	Weald of Kent CC
Downs North	Molash	None	Ashford Rural East	DN3 - Molash	202	Molash Village Hall, Pound Lane	No Change	Weald of Kent CC
Downs North	Godmersham	None	Ashford Rural East	DN4 - Godmersham	288	Godmersham & Crundale Recreation Hall, The Street	No Change	Weald of Kent CC
Downs North	Crundale	None	Ashford Rural East	DN5 - Crundale	156	Godmersham & Crundale Recreation Hall, The Street	No Change	Weald of Kent CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Downs West	Boughton Aluph & Eastwell	Eastwell	Ashford Rural West	DW1 - Eastwell (Part)	42	The Iron Room, Faversham Road	No Change	Weald of Kent CC
Downs West	Boughton Aluph & Eastwell	Eastwell	Ashford Rural West	DW2 - Eastwell (Part) The Towers	38	Goat Lees Community Hall, Trinity Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Weald of Kent CC
Downs West	Boughton Aluph & Eastwell	Boughton Aluph	Ashford Rural West	DW3 - Boughton Aluph (Part) The Village	345	The Iron Room, Faversham Road	No Change	Weald of Kent CC
Downs West	Boughton Aluph & Eastwell	Boughton Aluph	Ashford Rural West	DW4 - Boughton Aluph (Part) The Towers	186	Goat Lees Community Hall, Trinity Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Weald of Kent CC
Downs West	Westwell	None	Ashford Rural West	DW5 - Westwell	872	Westwell Village Hall, Gold Hill	No Change	Weald of Kent CC
Downs West	Challock	None	Ashford Rural West	DW6 - Challock	890	The New Memorial Hall, (Small Hall Ground Floor), Blind Lane	No Change	Weald of Kent CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Furley	None	None	Ashford Central	FR1 - Northbrooke	2,184	St Teresa's Parish Hall, Maidstone Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Furley	None	None	Ashford South	FR1X Magazine Road	406	St Teresa's Parish Hall, Maidstone Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC
Furley	None	None	Ashford Central	FR2 - Knatchbull	1,819	Ashford North Youth Centre, Mabledon Avenue	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	ARO Submission
Goat Lees	Boughton Aluph & Eastwell	Goat Lees	Ashford Rural West	GL1 - Boughton Aluph	1,349	Goat Lees Community Hall, Trinity Road	Combine with DW4X – Sandyhurst Lane	Ashford CC
Goat Lees	Kennington	Kennington North	Ashford Rural West	GL2 - Kennington North	471	United Reformed Methodist Church, Faversham Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC
Goat Lees	Kennington	Kennington North	Ashford Rural East	GL2X Grosvenor Road	45	United Reformed Methodist Church, Faversham Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC
Goat Lees	Boughton Aluph & Eastwell	Goat Lees	Ashford Rural West	DW4X Sandyhurst - Farm	2	Goat Lees Community Hall, Trinity Road	Delete polling district and combine with GL1-Boughton Aluph	Ashford CC

New Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Godinton	None	None	Ashford Central	GO1 - Godinton	1,936	Godinton Village Hall, Loudon Way	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Highfield	None	None	Ashford East	HI1 - Highfield	1,814	WI Hall, Church Road, Willesborough	No Change	Ashford CC
Highfield	Sevington with Finberry	Highfield	Ashford East	HI2 - Sevington North	222	WI Hall, Church Road, Willesborough (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Isle of Oxney	Kenardington	None	Tenterden	IO1 - Kenardington	220	Kenardington Village Hall, The Wish	No Change	Weald of Kent
Isle of Oxney	Appledore	None	Tenterden	IO2 - Appledore	678	Appledore Village Hall, 76 The Street	No Change	Weald of Kent
Isle of Oxney	Stone -Cum- Ebony	None	Tenterden	IO3 - Stone	372	Stone Cum Ebony Memorial Hall, The Street	No Change	Weald of Kent
Isle of Oxney	Wittersham	None	Tenterden	IO4 - Wittersham	935	Wittersham Village Hall Clubroom, The Street	No Change	Weald of Kent

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Kennington	Kennington	Kennington	Ashford Rural East	KE1 - Kennington Lees	473	WI Hall, Faversham Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Kennington	Kennington	Kennington	Ashford Central	KE1X - Faversham Road (Outside the PD)	13	WI Hall, Faversham Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC
Kennington	Kennington	Kennington	Ashford Rural East	KE2 - Downs View	1,305	St Mary's Church Hall, Church Road	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Kingsnorth Village and Bridgefield	Kingsnorth	Bridgefield	Ashford Rural South	KVB1 - Bridgefield	1,361	Kingsnorth Village Hall, Church Hill	No Change	Weald of Kent
Kingsnorth Village and Bridgefield	Kingsnorth	Kingsnorth Village	Ashford Rural South	KVB2 - Kingsnorth Village	691	Kingsnorth Village Hall, Church Hill	No Change	Weald of Kent
Kingsnorth Village and Bridgefield	Kingsnorth	Kingsnorth Village	Ashford Rural South	KVB3 - Stubbs Cross	235	St Francis of Assisi Mission Hall, Magpie Hall Road, Stubbs Cross	No Change	Weald of Kent



Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Mersham, Sevington South with Finberry	Mersham	None	Ashford Rural East	MSF1 - Mersham	942	The Mountbatten Hall, The Forstal	No Change	Ashford CC
Mersham, Sevington South with Finberry	Sevington with Finberry	Sevington	Ashford Rural East	MSF2 – Sevington South	31	The Mountbatten Hall, The Forstal <a href="#">(Outside the PD)</a>	No Change	Ashford CC
Mersham, Sevington South with Finberry	Sevington with Finberry	Sevington	Ashford Rural East	MSF3 – Sevington & Finberry	1,185	Mobile Polling Station, Finberry Primary School, Avocet Way.	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Norman	None	None	Ashford East	NO1 - Hampden	1,162	United Reformed Methodist Church, Cade Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Norman	None	None	Ashford East	NO2 - Whitfield	894	Christchurch Community Hall, Christchurch Road	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Park Farm North	Kingsnorth	Park Farm North	Ashford Rural South	PFN1 - Park Farm North	1,848	Kingsnorth Recreation Centre, Field View (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Park Farm South	Kingsnorth	Park Farm South	Ashford Rural South	PFS1 - Park Farm South	1,907	Kingsnorth Recreation Centre, Field View	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Repton	None	None	Ashford Central	RE1 - Repton	3,329	Repton Connect Repton Avenue	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Rolvenden & Tenterden West	Tenterden	Rolvenden & Tenterden West	Tenterden	RTW1- Tenterden West	579	St Mildred's Church Hall, Church Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Weald of Kent
Rolvenden & Tenterden West	Newenden	None	Tenterden	RTW2- Newenden	183	The White Hart Public House, Newenden	No Change	Weald of Kent
Rolvenden & Tenterden West	Rolvenden	Rolvenden Streyte	Tenterden	RTW3- Rolvenden Streyte	925	Rolvenden Village Hall, Maytham Road	No Change	Weald of Kent
Rolvenden & Tenterden West	Rolvenden	Rolvenden Layne	Tenterden	RTW4- Rolvenden Layne	312	31 Maytham Road, Rolvenden Layne	No Change	Weald of Kent

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Roman	Kingsnorth	Roman	Ashford Rural South	ROM1 - Westhawk	982	The Limes Community Garden Building, The Limes (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC
Roman	Stanhope	The Limes	Ashford South	ROM2 - The Limes	164	The Limes Community Garden Building, The Limes	No Change	Ashford CC
Roman	Kingsnorth	Roman	Ashford Rural South	ROM3 - Brisley Farm	991	Mobile Polling Station, Land at Merino Way	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Saxon Shore	Aldington & Bonnington	Aldington	Ashford Rural East	SAX1 - Aldington	1,082	The Fraser Room, Aldington Village Hall, Goldwell Lane	No Change	Weald of Kent
Saxon Shore	Aldington & Bonnington	Bonnington	Ashford Rural East	SAX2 - Bonnington	96	The Fraser Room, Aldington Village Hall, Goldwell Lane	No Change	Weald of Kent
Saxon Shore	Bilsington	None	Ashford Rural South	SAX3 - Bilsington	259	Bilsington Village Hall, Newchurch Road	No Change	Weald of Kent
Saxon Shore	Ruckinge	None	Ashford Rural South	SAX4 - Ruckinge	253	Ruckinge Village Hall, Hamstreet Road	No Change	Weald of Kent
Saxon Shore	Ruckinge	None	Ashford Rural South	SAX5 - Upper Ruckinge	386	Bromley Green Hall, Bromley Green Road	No Change	Weald of Kent

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Singleton East	Great Chart with Singleton	Singleton East	Ashford South	SGE1 - Singleton East	1,761	Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close	No Change	Ashford CC
Singleton East	Great Chart With Singleton	Singleton East	Ashford Rural West	SGE1X- Chilmington	20	Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Singleton West	Great Chart with Singleton	Singleton West	Ashford Rural West	SGW1 - Singleton West	1,996	Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Stanhope	Stanhope	Central	Ashford South	STA1 - Stanhope	1,914	Stanhope Parish Rooms, Otterden Close	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Tenterden North	Tenterden	Tenterden North	Tenterden	TN1 - Homewood	1,007	Trinity Baptist Church Hall, Ashford Road, Tenterden	Combine with polling district TN2 – East Cross	Weald of Kent
Tenterden North	Tenterden	Tenterden North	Tenterden	TN2 - East Cross	436	Trinity Baptist Church Hall, Ashford Road, Tenterden	Delete polling district TN2-East Cross and combine with TN1-Homewood	Weald of Kent
Tenterden North	Tenterden	Tenterden North	Tenterden	TN3 - West Cross	526	St Mildred`s Church Hall, Church Road	Rename polling district TN2 – West Cross	Weald of Kent

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Tenterden South	Tenterden	Tenterden South	Tenterden	TS1 - Tenterden South	2,161	Rainbow Room, Tenterden Leisure Centre, Recreation Ground Road	No Change	Weald of Kent

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Tenterden St Michael's	Tenterden	Tenterden St Michaels	Tenterden	TSM1 – St Michael's	2,076	St Michael's Hall, Grange Road, St Michaels	No Change	Weald of Kent

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Upper Weald	Hothfield	None	Ashford Rural West	UW1 - Hothfield	614	Hothfield Village Hall, Park Drive	No Change	Weald of Kent
Upper Weald	Pluckley	None	Ashford Rural West	UW2 - Pluckley	888	Pluckley Village Hall, Fir Toll, Station Road	No Change	Weald of Kent
Upper Weald	Little Chart	None	Ashford Rural West	UW3 - Little Chart	214	Little Chart Village Hall, The Street	No Change	Weald of Kent
Upper Weald	Charing	Charing Heath	Ashford Rural West	UW4 - Charing Heath	377	Charing Heath Village Hall, Church Hill	No Change	Weald of Kent

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Victoria	None	None	Ashford Central	VI1 - Barrow Hill	966	The Scout Hall, Forge Lane	No Change	Ashford CC
Victoria	None	None	Ashford South	VI2 - Watercress	909	Gateway Church, The Riverside Centre, Clockhouse	No Change	Ashford CC
Victoria	None	None	Ashford South	VI3 - Town Centre	1,009	Ashford Parish Rooms, The Church Yard	No Change	Ashford CC
Victoria	None	None	Ashford South	VI4 - Station	2,144	Ashford Community Church, Francis Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Washford	Great Chart with Singleton	Washford	Ashford South	WA1 - Singleton South	606	Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC
Washford	Kingsnorth	Washford Farm	Ashford Rural South	WA2 - Washford Farm	1,110	Mobile Polling Station, Junction of Langney Drive and Stanhope Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Washford	Stanhope	Speldhurst Close	Ashford South	WA3 - Stanhope Speldhurst	342	Mobile Polling Station, Junction of Langney Drive and Stanhope Road (Outside the PD)	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Weald Central	Great Chart With Singleton	Great Chart with Singleton North	Ashford Rural West	WC1 - Great Chart Village	614	Great Chart Village Hall, The Street	No Change	Weald of Kent
Weald Central	Great Chart With Singleton	Chilmington Green	Ashford Rural West	WC2 - Chilmington Green	583	Great Chart Village Hall, The Street	New polling station in CMO building Chilmington Green	Weald of Kent
Weald Central	High Halden	None	Tenterden	WC3 - High Halden	1,426	High Halden War Memorial Hall, Ashford Road	No Change	Weald of Kent
Weald Central	Bethersden	None	Ashford Rural West	WC4 - Bethersden	1,388	Bethersden Village Hall, Forge Hill	No Change	Weald of Kent

New Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Weald North	Egerton	None	Ashford Rural West	WN1 - Egerton	880	The Games Barn, Rock Hill Road	No Change	Weald of Kent
Weald North	Smarden	None	Ashford Rural West	WN2 - Smarden	1,240	Smarden Charter Hall, Chessenden Lane	No Change	Weald of Kent



Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Weald South	Orlestone	None	Ashford Rural South	WS1 - Orlestone	1,263	Victory Hall, Ruckinge Road	No Change	Weald of Kent
Weald South	Warehorne	None	Ashford Rural South	WS2 - Warehorne	287	Warehorne Village Hall, Church Road	No Change	Weald of Kent
Weald South	Shadoxhurst	None	Ashford Rural South	WS3 - Shadoxhurst	1,071	Shadoxhurst Village Hall, Hornash Lane	No Change	Weald of Kent
Weald South	Woodchurch	None	Ashford Rural South	WS4 - Woodchurch	1,691	Woodchurch Village Hall Annex, Front Road	No Change	Weald of Kent

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Willesborough	None	None	Ashford East	WIL1 - Aylesford	738	The Scout Hut, Breadlands Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Willesborough	None	None	Ashford East	WIL2 - Hythe Road	2,454	Christchurch Hall, Albemarle Road	No Change	Ashford CC
Willesborough	None	None	Ashford East	WIL3 - William Harvey	1,626	Mobile Polling Station, Junction of Blackwall Road South and Kennington Road	No Change	Ashford CC

Ward	Parish	Parish Ward	County	Polling District	Electorate	Polling Place	Proposal	Parliamentary
Wye with Hinxhill	Wye with Hinxhill	None	Ashford Rural East	WY1 - Wye with Hinxhill	1,865	Wye Village Hall, Bridge Street	No Change	Ashford CC



**Agenda Item No:**

**Report To:** Selection & Constitutional Review Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Report Title:** Term of office of Leader of the Council

**Report Author:** Terry Mortimer Solicitor to the Council  
& Monitoring Officer

**Portfolio Holder** Leader of the Council:  
Cllr.N.Ovenden

**Summary:** to ask the Committee to consider and recommend to the Council whether the current constitutional provision for election of the Leader of the Council for a four year term should be amended to an annual election at the Annual Meeting.

**Key decision:** No

**Recommendations:** (i) that the Committee consider and recommend to Council whether the current 4 year term for which the Leader of the Council is elected should be amended to an annual election at the Annual Meeting.

(ii) If such an amendment is recommended then it should be on the terms set out at paragraph 11 of this report.

(iii) The Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution.

**Contact:** [terry.mortimer@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:terry.mortimer@ashford.gov.uk)

## **TERM OF OFFICE OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

### **Introduction**

1. At its meeting on 13 June 2023 the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended that this Committee should receive a report regarding the term of office of the Leader of the Council (currently a four year term) and whether this should be recommended for amendment to provide for an annual election of the Leader of the Council.

At its meeting on 19 July 2023 the Council agreed that a report should be presented to this Committee.

### **Legal & Constitutional Position**

2. The Council's Constitution provides in Article 7.02 that the Leader of the Council will be elected by the Council and the term of office begins on the day of election to the office and ends on the day of the next post Local Election Annual Meeting which follows his/her election as Leader. This is normally a four year period. The current Leader of the Council was so elected in May 2023.
3. In an election year the Leader holds over pending election of a new Leader even if not re-elected at the local elections.
4. Article 7.02 further provides that the Leader holds office for that term unless he/she resigns, is no longer a councillor (other than by expiration of office) or is removed from office by resolution of the Council on the basis of a motion process set out in Article 7.02.
5. The statutory background to the Council's constitutional provisions on the Leader of the Council is as follows.  
The Local Government Act 2000 allowed the Council to choose the term of office of the Leader. The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 inserted new provisions at s.44 A-D of the 2000 Act prescribing that the Leader's term of office end on the post –election Annual Meeting following his/her election as Leader ie effectively a 4 year term of office. The Council's Constitution currently reflects this 4 year term provision.
6. The Localism Act 2011 inserted further provisions regarding the Leader of the Council into the Local Government Act 2000 which re-introduced a discretion in place of the mandatory four year term. It also required provisions to be included in Constitution regarding removal of the Leader by resolution of the Council and their continuation in office until replaced even at the end of an electoral term.
7. The Council was and is under no obligation to amend the current provisions on the Leader's term of office. However it does have a discretion to do so.

## **Key Considerations**

8. The principle of a 4 year term of office for the Leader was introduced by the 2007 Act as part of the promotion of the “strong leadership” Model by Government at the time. The intention was to promote stability and continuity and allow a Leader and an administration to implement medium and longer term strategies and policies with less difficulty.
9. Although a 4 year term does not make allowances for changes within an administration or changes to the overall political landscape during the term, there are provisions which allow the Council to remove the Leader by resolution at any time.
10. Nonetheless members will wish to consider whether the annual election of the Leader of the Council (who would hold office until the day of the next Annual Meeting) is preferred to the current 4 year term. This would provide a process for regular planned consideration of potential change as an alternative to the removal by resolution of the council at any time. However the latter process must also by law still be available within the Constitution.

## **Conclusions**

11. If this Committee wishes to recommend a change from the current 4 year term for the Leader to provide for annual election of the Leader at the Annual Meeting then it is recommended it does so on the following terms. This would mean the next election of Leader takes place at the Annual Meeting in May 2024:
  - (i) the Constitution be amended with immediate effect to state that the term of office of the Leader is one year (although the Leader may serve consecutive one year terms up to a maximum of four years following each local election if so elected at each Annual Meeting)
  - (ii) the other existing provisions in the Constitution in respect of resignation of the Leader and the removal and replacement of the Leader and the term of office in an election year remain in place.
  - (iii) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend any other relevant references in the Constitution to reflect the change in term of office.

Terry Mortimer  
Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer  
November 2023

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# Agenda Item 6



ASHFORD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Agenda Item No:**

**Report To:** Selection & Constitutional Review Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 5 December 2023

**Report Title:** Term of Office of Mayor

**Report Author:** Terry Mortimer Solicitor to the Council  
& Monitoring Officer

**Portfolio Holder  
Leader of the Council:** Cllr. N. Ovenden

**Summary:** to inform the Committee of the legal and constitutional position regarding the possible election of the Mayor for a 2 year term.

**Key decision:** No

**Recommendation:** the Committee and Council is asked to note the legal and constitutional position regarding the possible election of the mayor for a 2 year term.

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## TERM OF OFFICE FOR MAYOR

### Introduction

1. At its meeting on 13 June 2023 the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended that this Committee should receive a report to consider whether the term of office on election of the Mayor should be extended to up to two years. This recommendation regarding a report was agreed by Council at its meeting on 19 July 2023.
2. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered that allowing extension of the term of election could ease difficulties sometimes encountered with identifying candidates each year under the current arrangements.

### Legal & Constitutional Position

3. Section 3(1) of the The Local Government Act 1972 provides that “the Chairman of a principal council shall be elected annually by the Council from among the councillors”.
4. The Mayor’s statutory role includes chairmanship of the Council and so s.3 applies to election of the mayor. **Accordingly it is not legally possible to elect a mayor for a term of more than one year.**
5. There is nothing in the law or in the Council’s Constitution which prevents a mayor from being elected for a second successive year. However this is a matter for the Council to decide at each annual election process at the Annual Meeting and cannot be predetermined in advance in a single election process. Clearly if the Council wished to elect a mayor for a second successive year then it would need to take into account the position of the Deputy Mayor who would normally expect to succeed the mayor upon completion of one year in office.
6. Relevant provisions of the Council’s Constitution are as follows (Selection of Mayor and Term of Office – Part 5 Codes & Protocols)
  - “The term of office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor will normally be for one year”  
[as indicated above, a mayor can be elected for a second successive year but cannot be elected for a two year term in advance. Article 5 of the Constitution correctly states that the mayor is elected annually]
  - “The Deputy Mayor will normally succeed the Mayor (subject to review in election year)”
  - “There is a presumption against Members serving a second term as Mayor and Deputy Mayor if other willing candidates exist but this is ultimately a matter for decision of the Council”



7. The Constitution also sets out the process for Mayor and Deputy Mayor nominations. This includes recommendations by Group Leaders to this Committee immediately preceding the Annual Meeting. This does not preclude other nominations being made at the Annual Meeting itself although the protocol states this “should be avoided where possible”.

### **Conclusion**

8. Whilst it is not legally possible to elect a Mayor (Chairman) for a term exceeding one year in advance, there is nothing in the law or the Council’s Constitution which prevents the Council from electing a Mayor or Deputy Mayor for a second successive term.

Terry Mortimer  
Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer  
November 2023

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