

## **CABINET**

**9 JULY 2013**

### **CABINET ADVISORY GROUPS**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rodney Chambers, Leader

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services

#### **Summary**

The Cabinet is asked to agree to amend the ratio of the Airport Proposals Cabinet Advisory Group and the Corporate Parenting Group following changes to the size of political groups in June 2013.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

1.1 The establishment and appointment to Cabinet Advisory Groups is a matter for Cabinet.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 The Cabinet re-established a number of Cabinet Advisory Groups for the current municipal year on 11 June 2013. Some Cabinet Advisory Groups include membership across all political groups, including the former Independent Group.

2.2 Following notification that the Independent Group Members (Councillors Cooper and Stamp) have joined the Labour Group, it has been necessary to review the Cabinet Advisory Group ratios.

2.3 The Cabinet had agreed to give the Independent Group one place on each of the following Cabinet Advisory Groups:

- Airport Proposals Cabinet Advisory Group
- Corporate Parenting Group.

2.4 Following consultation with the Leader, it is proposed to amend the ratios of both these groups as detailed below.

#### **3. Airport Proposals Cabinet Advisory Group**

3.1 The Cabinet agreed to set up a cross party Cabinet Airport Advisory Group with the aim of advising on the Council's strategy for joining with

others to oppose plans for Thames Estuary Airports at its meeting on 20 December 2011.

- 3.2 Further to this, Council on 12 January 2012, reaffirmed its strong opposition to the current plans to construct any of the new International Airport proposals in, or close to, Medway and agrees to work with neighbouring authorities, local communities, businesses and environmental groups to oppose these proposals.
- 3.3 This is a cross-party Group, originally set up on a 5:2:1:1 basis, and is supported by the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture together with other senior officers.
- 3.4 With the agreement of the Leader, it is recommended that ratio of this Group be amended to 5:3:1. The revised membership is set out in Appendix 1.

#### **4. Corporate Parenting Group**

- 4.1 Medway Council is the corporate parent of the children in its care, wherever the children are placed. All councillors have a responsibility in fulfilling this role. Medway has decided to exercise the function of corporate parenting through a Corporate Parenting Group.
- 4.2 The Cabinet in 2003 agreed to the establishment of a corporate parenting steering group, to advise officers on policy relating to looked after children monitor performance and celebrate and share achievements. Following the Joint Area Review the group was reconfigured and has now become an advisory group chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services. The group examines how Medway Council is meeting its obligations to Looked after Children in terms of providing care, a home and access to health and education and doing all the other things a good parent does.
- 4.3 Reflecting the responsibility for all councillors in this area the group has traditionally included representatives from all the political groups on the council. The officers who usually attend meetings are the Director of Children and Adults, the Assistant Director for Children's Social Care, the Service Manager for Looked After Children, the Virtual Head teacher as well as representatives from the Police, NHS and Medway Youth Trust.
- 4.4 This is a cross-party Group, originally set up on a 5:2:1:1 basis. With the agreement of the Leader, it is recommended that the ratio of this Group be amended to 5:3:1. The revised membership is set out in Appendix 1.

#### **5. Financial and legal implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 Requirements under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 concerning political proportionality do not apply to these advisory

groups. It is a matter for Cabinet to establish and/or remove such groups as appropriate, as well as determine their size and composition.

## **6. Risk management**

6.1 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

## **7. Recommendation**

7.1 The Cabinet is asked to agree the changes to the ratios and memberships for the Airport Proposals Cabinet Advisory Group and Corporate Parenting Group as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **8. Suggested reasons for decisions**

8.1 To reflect the change in number and size of political groups.

### **Lead officer contact**

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### **Background papers**

None.



## Appendix 1

### Bodies established by Cabinet (Appointments to these bodies must be approved by Cabinet)

Title	No and ratio	Names of nominated representatives	
Airport Proposals Cabinet Advisory Group	9 (5:3:1)	Cllrs Bright, Rodney Chambers, Chitty, Filmer, Jarrett, Juby, Maple, Murray and Stamp	
Corporate Parenting Group	9 (5:3:1) plus named substitutes	<u>Member</u> Cllr Cooper Cllr Etheridge Cllr Gilry Cllr O'Brien Cllr Price Cllr Purdy Cllr Royle Cllr Smith Cllr Wildey	<u>Substitute</u> Cllr Stamp Cllr Iles Cllr Craven Cllr Baker Cllr Maple Cllr Brake Cllr Avey Cllr Kearney Cllr A Gulvin