

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

7 FEBRUARY 2023

REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES

Report from: Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance

Author: Steve Platt, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

The Committee is asked to review the memberships of its sub-committees, these being the Licensing Sub-Committee, Licensing Hearing Panels and Licensing 1982 Act Hearing Panels.

1. Budget and policy framework

1.1 The establishment of sub-committees, and the appointment of Members to serve on them is a matter for decision at a Joint meeting of Committees, which follows the Annual Council meeting. Therefore, the sub-committees were established and appointed to by the Joint meeting of Committees at its meeting on 18 May 2022.

2. The allocation of seats on the Committee and its sub-committees

2.1 The Council is required under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to allocate seats on Committees and sub-committees to political groups in accordance with the size of each group on the Council as a whole, unless alternative arrangements are notified to all Members five clear days in advance of the meeting and agreed without any Councillor voting against them.

2.2 At the Annual Council meeting on 18 May 2022, this review of seats on committees resulted in the following allocation of seats on the Licensing and Safety Committee: Conservative Group (7) and Labour and Co-operative Group (5).

2.3 Following the passing of Councillor Mick Pendergast (Peninsula ward), a by-election was held on 8 December 2022 where Councillor George Crozer was elected. Councillor Crozer and Councillor Sands subsequently established the Independent Group. In addition, Councillor Adeoye recently joined the Conservative Group. This triggered a review of committee seats, the results of which were considered by Full Council on 19 January 2023. Council resolved

to change the allocation of seats on the Licensing and Safety Committee to Conservative Group (8) and Labour and Co-operative (4).

- 2.4 Full Council also agreed to note that the Licensing and Safety Committee will be asked to review the membership of its Sub Committees at its next meeting.
- 2.5 A review has been undertaken of this Committee's sub-committees.
- 2.6 Licensing Sub-Committee – under the revised allocation of committee seats, this will remain a Sub-Committee consisting of four Conservative Group members and three Labour and Co-operative Group members.
- 2.7 Licensing Hearing Panels and Licensing 1982 Act Hearing Panels – the Committee has previously agreed to waive the requirement for political balance for these Panels, therefore, no change is recommended.
- 2.8 In conclusion, it is proposed that the size of the sub-committees, the allocation of seats and their memberships for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be agreed as set out in Appendix 1.

3. Risk management

- 3.1 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

4. Financial and legal implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 The legal position is as set out in the body of the report.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to agree to the size, allocation of seats and memberships on the Licensing Sub-Committee, Licensing Hearing Panels and Licensing 1982 Act Hearing Panels, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The Committee is asked to agree that the requirement for political balance should be waived in respect of Licensing Hearing Panels and Licensing 1982 Act Hearing Panels and that the process for selection of Panel Members should be as set out in Appendix 1.

Lead officer contact:

Stephen Platt, Democratic Services Officer, Telephone: 01634 332011

Email: stephen.platt@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – 2022/23 Licensing and Safety Committee Sub-Committee Memberships

Appendix 2 – Licensing and Safety Committee Sub-Committee Memberships terms of reference

Background papers
None