

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ALL-MEMBER MEETING**



Date: 27 June 2019

Subject: **Political balance following May 2019 local elections**

Report of: David Covill, Director South East England Councils

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- i) Note the results of the May 2019 local elections and the implications for the allocation of 19 seats on South East England Councils' Executive.
- ii) In the event that nominations in respect of the two seats allocated to 'Independent' and 'Other' are not finalised by the time of the AGM, agree to delegate the completion of the appointments to the Director of South East England Councils in consultation with the Local Government Association Independent Group.

1. Determining political balance on South East England Councils' Executive

1.1 South East England Councils' constitution sets out the formula for allocating 19 seats on the Executive according to the percentage of votes each party receives across the 74 South East local authorities. This means that seat allocations reflect the share of votes cast for each party, rather than the number of Councils each party controls. The constitution also sets a minimum threshold whereby Executive seats are only allocated to parties who return more than 5% of total Councillors across the South East.

1.2 The template for Executive seats below reflects the results of local elections on 2 May 2019. Seats are normally rounded up for parties whose allocation includes a proportion of a seat greater than 0.5 and rounded down for parties with a proportion of a seat less than 0.5.

	Con	Lib Dem	Lab	Ind	Residents	Green	UKIP	Total
Number of Councillors	1,825	625	502	212	134	88	10	3,396
% Cllrs	53.74	18.40	14.78	6.24	3.95	2.59	0.30	100%
% of vote	57.75	16.95	14.80	5.05	2.73	2.55	0.17	100%
Seat allocation	10.97	3.22	2.81	0.96	1.0 combined (no party alone meets threshold of 5% of Cllrs)			
Rounded seat allocation	11	3	3	1	1			19

1.3 Independents reached the required minimum threshold of 5% of councillors to be entitled to a seat on the Executive. Residents, Greens and UKIP combined secured enough votes to warrant one seat but none of these groups achieved the threshold of 5% of councillors. The seat may however be filled by agreement.

- 1.4 The Local Government Association Independent Group has agreed to assist in the process of nominating to these two positions. The LGA Independent Group supports Independents, Residents, Greens and UKIP and is therefore well placed to advise and assist
- 1.5 In the event that nominations are not finalised by the time of the AGM, the report asks the AGM to delegate the completion of the appointments to the Director of South East England Councils in consultation with the Local Government Association.