

Policy and Resources Committee	
Meeting Date	12 June 2025
Report Title	Member appointments to joint arrangements
EMT Lead	Lisa Fillery – Director of Resources
Head of Service	
Lead Officer	Jo Millard – Democratic and Electoral Services Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<p>The committee is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine which members should be appointed to the MKS board and the STGBC joint committee. 2. Appoint those members to the MKS board and STGBC joint committee.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the policy and resources committee to agree the council's member representation for the municipal year 2025/26 on the Mid-Kent Services Board and the South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee.

2 Background

- 2.1 A joint arrangement is one in which the council collaborates with other local authorities or agencies to provide services in partnership. Member appointments to the boards or committees exercising political control over such arrangements are distinct from nominations to outside bodies, in which members are asked to take on the role of directors or trustees of separate organisations, generally with a fiduciary duty to those organisations and not as representatives of the council.
- 2.2 In respect of joint arrangements, members are appointed to boards or committees with the express intention that they will represent Swale's interests on those boards or committees.
- 2.3 It is appropriate that these appointments are made by the service committee within whose remit the service in question falls. This is supported by Part 2.6 of the constitution, which specifies two joint arrangements and the service committees charged with making appointments to them. (In a future iteration of the constitution, members may consider amending this so that it covers the general principle rather than listing specific arrangements.)

3 Proposals

Mid-Kent Services

- 3.1 The Mid-Kent Services (MKS) is a partnership between Swale, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells councils, begun in 2008, aimed at sharing and aligning services in order to save money, share talent and increase the resilience of small teams. Shared services within MKS are largely corporate or back-office functions (including HR, ICT, legal, audit and planning support).
- 3.2 The MKS partnership is governed through the MKS board comprising of each council's chief executive and each council's leader. Appendix I provides the list of political groups' nominations for the other member appointment, and the committee is now ***recommended*** to determine who should be appointed for the municipal year 2025/26.

South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee

- 3.3 South Thames Gateway Building Control (STGBC), originally involving Swale, Gravesham and Medway councils, commenced operations in 2007, with Canterbury joining as a fourth member council in 2018.
- 3.4 STGBC is governed through a joint committee comprising one member from each council, which oversees operations and approves the annual three-year rolling business plan. Appendix II provides the list of political groups' nominations for this appointment, and the committee is now ***recommended*** to determine who should be appointed for the municipal year 2025/26.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 The governance mechanisms for the joint arrangements require members to be appointed to these roles, so there are no alternative options.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 These are routine appointments to existing arrangements, so no consultation has been undertaken or is proposed beyond asking group leaders for their nominations.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The joint arrangements contribute to a number of corporate plan objectives, primarily but not exclusively under Priority 4, “renewing local democracy and making the council fit for the future”.
Financial, Resource and Property	One of the reasons for the existence of the joint arrangements is to provide necessary services more efficiently and hence produce savings for the councils. There are no specific financial implications in the appointment of members to the governance bodies.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	The joint arrangements are established in contracts or other agreements between the partner councils, which include provision for members to be appointed to governance bodies.
Crime and Disorder	No implications identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No implications identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	No implications identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	No implications identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	No implications identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	No implications identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	No implications identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: Political group nominations to MKS board and to STGBC joint committee

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 There are no background papers.