

## Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Comparison with Kent Authorities and CIPFA ‘Nearest Neighbours’

It should be noted that Canterbury City Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Newark & Sherwood District Council and North Devon District Council operate the ‘committee system’<sup>1</sup> of governance arrangements and therefore, as they do not have a Cabinet, they have no scrutiny committees.

**Table 1: Kent Authorities Comparison**

Authority	Number of Cllrs (authority)	Number of Scrutiny Committee	Number of Cllrs (on scrutiny)	Percentage of Council on Scrutiny
Ashford Borough Council	47	1	12	25.53%
Canterbury City Council	39	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dartford Borough Council	42	2	(i) 17 (ii) 8	40.47% 19.04%
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	30	1	10	33.33%
Gravesham Borough Council	44	2	(i) 9 (ii) 13	20.45% 29.54%
Maidstone Borough Council	55	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sevenoaks District Council	54	1	11	20.37%
Swale Borough Council	47	1	13	27.65%
Thanet District Council	56	1	14	25.00%
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council	54	1	18	33.33%
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	48	1	12	25.00%

(i) *Scrutiny Committee (meets 11 times per year)*

(ii) *Crime & Disorder ([Overview &] Scrutiny) Committee (meets 2 times per year)*

### Kent Summary

The countywide median average is 1 scrutiny committee (mean average - 1.22 scrutiny committees), with 12 members (mean average - 12.45 councillors) equating to an average of 25.53% (mean average - 27.25%) of the total number of councillors. This is against a median average council size of 47 (mean average 46.90). There are 7 authorities with 1 scrutiny committee and 2 authorities with 2 scrutiny committees.

**Table 2: CIPFA Nearest Neighbours Comparison**

Authority	Number of Cllrs (authority)	Number of Scrutiny Committee	Number of Cllrs (on scrutiny)	Percentage of Council on Scrutiny
Adur District Council	29	1	8	27.58%
Allerdale Borough Council	49	1	12	24.48%
Bassetlaw District Council	48	1	10	20.83%
Fenland District Council	39	1	9	23.07%
Havant Borough Council	38	3	10 (x3)	26.31% (x1)

<sup>1</sup> “Under the committee system, a local authority is able to decide how its functions, i.e. the powers given to it by central government, are delivered. It is possible for the full council to make all of its decisions. Or it can delegate certain responsibilities to a committee, sub-committee or an officer.” (LGIU Policy Briefing, 2014)

Authority	Number of Cllrs (authority)	Number of Scrutiny Committee	Number of Cllrs (on scrutiny)	Percentage of Council on Scrutiny
			30 (total)	78.94% (x2)
Lancaster City Council	60	2	9 (x2) 18 (total)	15.00% (x1) 30.00% (x2)
Newark & Sherwood District Council	39	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Devon District Council	42	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sedgemoor District Council	48	2	11 (x2)	22.91% (x1) 45.83% (x2)
East Suffolk Council	55	1	13	23.63%
West Lancashire Borough Council	54	2	12 (x2) 24 (total)	22.22% (x1) 44.44% (x2)
Wyre Forest District Council	33	1	5	15.15%

### CIPFA Nearest Neighbour Summary

The CIPFA Nearest Neighbour median average is 1 scrutiny committee (mean average - 1.50 scrutiny committees), with 10 members (mean average – 9.90 councillors) equating to an average of 22.99% (mean average - 22.12%) of the total number of councillors. This is against a median average council size of 48 (mean average 45.30). There are 6 authorities with 1 scrutiny committee, 3 authorities with 2 scrutiny committees and 1 authority with 4 scrutiny committees.