

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS COMMITTEE

13 OCTOBER 2009

ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services

Summary

This report sets out the position regarding the allocation of seats on the Joint Consultative Committee following the creation of a new Independent Group comprising 3 members of the Council and a by-election in Luton and Wayfield ward on 3 September 2009.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The allocation of seats on Sub-Committees is a matter for the parent Committee.

2. Background

2.1 On 10 and 11 August 2009 the Chief Executive received notices that Councillors Val Goulden and Tony Goulden had ceased to be members of the Labour Group and that a new Independent Group had been formed comprising Councillor Tony Goulden, as Leader, Councillor Ian Burt as Deputy Leader and Group Whip and Councillor Val Goulden. The notices were accompanied by a request for a review to be carried out of the arrangements for the allocation of seats on committees to political groups under section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2.2 There was also a by-election in Luton and Wayfield ward on 3 September following the resignation of Councillor Dennis McFarlane earlier in the Summer. Tashia Tamang Bhutia, the Conservative candidate, was duly elected as a Councillor for Luton and Wayfield ward.

2.3 The Council subsequently considered a report on the allocation of seats on Committees, and appointments to other bodies, on 10

September 2009 and it noted that the Employment Matters Committee would be required to agree the position regarding allocation of seats and appointments to the Joint Consultative Committee as follows:

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (7 MEMBERS)

<u>Conservative (4)</u>	<u>Labour (1) *</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat (1)</u>	<u>Independent (1) *</u>
Councillors: Andrews Avey Kenneth Bamber Carr (C)	Councillor: Maple (S) Shaw	Councillor: Ruparel (S)	Councillor:

* Note: The Constitution of the Joint Consultative Committee stipulates that the membership of Employment Matters Committee shall be the membership of the Joint Consultative Committee. The Committee is advised that whilst the Independent Group is now entitled to a seat on any bodies comprising a membership of 7, it has chosen not to take up a seat on the Employment Matters Committee and accepts that it would therefore be appropriate for the Labour Group to preserve 2 seats on the Joint Consultative Committee.

2.4 The Membership of the other sub-groups of the Employment Matters Committee remains unchanged.

3. Financial and legal implications

3.1 Any recommendations relating to the allocation of seats on Committees must be consistent with requirements in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 relating to political balance.

3.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Risk management

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

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is asked to agree the composition and membership of the Joint Consultative Committee as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report for the remainder of the municipal year.

Lead officer contact

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Background papers

Report to Council on 10 September 2009