

## **EMPLOYMENT MATTERS COMMITTEE**

**16 SEPTEMBER 2010**

### **ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Wayne Hemingway, Cabinet Coordinator

#### **Summary**

This report sets out the position regarding the allocation of seats on the Joint Consultative Committee following the review of the allocation of sets of Committees agreed at Council on 29 July 2010.

#### **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 16 June 2010 the Chief Executive received notice that Councillor Stamp had ceased to be a member of the Liberal Democrat Group and that he had joined the Independent Group. On 21 June 2010 the Independent Group formally requested that a review 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. This had the effect of an increase in the size of the Independent Group and a decrease in the size of the Liberal Democrat Group on the political balance of the Council. In addition, the resignation of Councillor Esterson and the subsequent reduction in the size of the Labour Group to 9 Members was also reflected in the review.
- 2.2 The Council subsequently considered a report on the allocation of seats on Committees, and appointments to other bodies, on 29 July 2010 and it noted that the Employment Matters Committee would be advised that the Independent Group had indicated their wish to take up the seat it is entitled to on the Joint Consultative Committee (as a result of the Independent Group taking a seat on the Employment Matters Committee). The Constitution of the Joint Consultative Committee

stipulates that the membership of Employment Matters Committee shall be the membership of the Joint Consultative Committee.

- 2.3 Therefore, the composition of the Joint Consultative Committee will be the same as the Employment Matters Committee, i.e:

Conservative	Independent Group	Labour	Liberal Democrat
4	1	1	1

- 2.4 There is currently one vacancy on the Council following the resignation of Councillor Craggs (River Ward) on 25 August (he was originally elected to the Council at the by-election on 12 August 2010).

### **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 note the membership of the Joint Consultative Committee, as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

#### **Lead officer contact**

Wayne Hemingway, Cabinet Coordinator  
Telephone: (01634) 332509  
E-mail: [wayne.hemingway@medway.gov.uk](mailto:wayne.hemingway@medway.gov.uk)

#### **Background papers**

Report to Council on 29 July 2010