

---

## **Recommendation from the General Purposes Committee: Wixams JDCC**

Report of Cllr Mrs Jane Lawrence, Chairman of General Purposes Committee  
[jane.lawrence@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jane.lawrence@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Advising Officers: Quentin Baker, Monitoring Officer  
[quentin.baker@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:quentin.baker@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) ;  
and  
Mel Peaston, Committee Services Manager,  
[mel.peaston@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mel.peaston@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).

---

### **Purpose of this report**

1. This report sets out a recommendation of the General Purposes Committee to amend the quorum provisions of the Wixams Joint Development Management Committee. As this would constitute an amendment to the Council's Constitution, this is a matter for full Council's determination.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that Full Council:-**

- i) **approves the wording of the proposed amendment to the standing orders for the Wixams Joint Development Control Committee contained with the Council's constitution, to include the requirement that at least one representative of each participating Council (Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council) be present at any meeting, as set out in Appendix A (attached).**
- ii) **authorises the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Council's published constitution.**

## **Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations**

1. This matter has not been through the overview and scrutiny function as it falls within the General Purposes Committee's remit.

## **Terms of Reference of the Wixams Joint Development Control Committee (JDCC)**

2. The terms of reference of the Wixams Joint Development Control Committee were recently considered by the General Purposes Committee which made recommendations to full Council on 21 July 2016. Council resolved to approve the revised terms of reference.
3. As these are the terms of reference for a joint committee, of which Bedford Borough Council is a constituent authority, they were the subject of consideration by Bedford Borough Council's General Purposes Committee. That committee approved them but in recommending them for adoption to Bedford Borough Council, asked that subject to Central Bedfordshire Council's agreement, the quorum provisions be amended to include a requirement that at least one representative of each constituent council be present at meetings.
4. The Chairman of this Council's Development Management Committee, and Co-Chairman of the Wixams JDCC, was consulted and he indicated that he was content for the amendment to be incorporated into the terms of reference.
5. The Committee noted that incorporating such an amendment would enable a constituent Council to prevent business being transacted by not attending a meeting. Notwithstanding this, the prevailing view of committee members was that it was desirable that no decisions should be taken in the absence of representation from all member authorities.

## **Reason for decision**

6. To make provision in the Constitution that meetings of the Wixams JDCC may only take place if there is present representation from both constituent Councils.

## **Council Priorities**

7. The proposed action will enable Wixams JDCC to support the following Council priorities:
  - Enhancing Central Bedfordshire
  - Creating stronger communities

## **Corporate Implications**

### **Legal Implications**

8. The Council's constitution sets out the terms of reference of committees and joint committees, which should be fit for purpose. The recommendation arising from the General Purposes Committee does not prevent the Wixams JDCC terms of reference remaining fit for purpose.

### **Financial and Risk Implications**

9. There are no financial implications. The proposed amendment reduces the risk that a meeting of Wixams JDCC could make decisions without reference to the interests of Central Bedfordshire Council residents.

### **Equalities Implications**

10. General Purposes Committee noted that providing for a Central Bedfordshire Council member within the quorum reduces the risk that data relating to Central Bedfordshire residents will not be taken into account.

### **Implications for Work Programming**

11. There are no implications for work programming.

### **Conclusion and next Steps**

12. Full Council is asked to approve the proposed amendment, which will be incorporated into the Council's, and Bedford Borough Council's, constitution.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A shows how the Constitution will be amended.

### **Background Papers**

13. The following background papers, not previously available to the public, were taken into account and are available on the Council's website: None