

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP
DATE: 25 AUGUST 2009

TITLE	TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES – CHAIRMANSHIP	ITEM NO.
REPORT OF	Head of Democratic Services	6

PURPOSE	To clarify the provision at Part J2, page 6, paragraph 9.2 of the constitution regarding chairmanship of the joint committee
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RECOMMENDATIONS:
<p>(1) That the wording of Part J2, paragraph 2 be amended to read “A councillor appointed by Central Bedfordshire Council will take on the role of Chairman and a councillor appointed by the Town Council will take on the role of Vice-Chairman”.</p> <p>(2) That parallel amendments be made to clarify the wording of the provisions relating to the chairmanship of both the Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee (Part J2, paragraph 9.2) and the Houghton Regis Town Centre Management Committees (Part J2, paragraph 6.3).</p>

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. At a recent meeting of the Leighton-Linslade Town Centre Management Committee a point of contention arose among members over the correct interpretation of Part J2, paragraph 9.2 of the constitution which sets out the Joint Committee’s terms of reference and states:

“A Central Bedfordshire Councillor will take on the role of Chairman and a Town Councillor will take on the role of Vice-Chairman”.

2. This reflected similar provisions which applied previously at South Bedfordshire District Council.
3. Leighton-Linslade Town Centre Management Committee comprises 5 councillors appointed by Central Bedfordshire Council and 5 councillors appointed by Leighton-Linslade Town Council. The 5 Central Bedfordshire members were appointed at the Council’s annual meeting on 18 June 2009.
4. The point of contention at the recent meeting was whether a member who had been appointed by the Town Council, but was also a Central Bedfordshire councillor, was permitted to take the role of Chairman. Officers had been asked prior to the meeting for their interpretation of paragraph 9.2 and advised that, in their view, the intention was that only one of the five councillors appointed to the Joint Committee by Central Bedfordshire Council could take the role of Chairman. That advice was however contested at the meeting.
5. Since the constitution is not explicit on this point, we would ask the Constitution Advisory Group (a) to confirm whether this was indeed their intention; and if so (b) to recommend a minor amendment to the wording of paragraph 9.2 to put the issue beyond doubt.
6. This issue has not been raised by either the Dunstable or the Houghton Regis Town Centre Management Committee but, for consistency, the Advisory Group may wish to apply the same minor amendment to the terms of reference of those two joint committees as well.

Contact Officer Details:	Key Background Papers:
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