

COUNCIL MEETING – 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

AGENDA ITEM NO 5

Proposed amendments to the proposed Submission to the Boundary Committee on Council Size

1. **Paragraph 4.7**

The initially proposed paragraph reads:-

“The national Census of Local Authority Councillors 2008 indicates that across all authorities, members hold on average 3.7 committee or sub-committee seats. Using this standard, each member sitting on an average of 3.7 committees indicates that 37 councillors would be required to fill the remaining non-executive seats.”

It is now suggested that paragraph be amended as shown below:-

“The national Census of Local Authority Councillors 2008 indicates that across all authorities, members hold on average 3.7 committee or sub-committee seats. Using this average of each member sitting on 3.7 committees would result in 37 councillors being required to fill the remaining non-executive seats.”

2. **New paragraphs 12.6 and 12.7**

To further support the recommended figure of 66 councillors it is suggested that new paragraphs 12.6 and 12.7 be added and that the remaining paragraphs from 12.6 to 12.8 be renumbered 12.8 to 12.10.

Proposed new paragraph 12.6

Consideration was given to a range of Council sizes from 62 to 70. The affect of a number below 66 councillors would be to increase the number of committee memberships to a figure greater than the national average. This was considered unacceptable as it had already been established that councillors at Central Bedfordshire were required to devote to council and community activities a far greater proportion of their time than the national average figure.

Proposed new paragraph 12.7

Whilst a figure below 66 councillors would result in higher than average figures for both committee memberships and time spent on council and community activities, it was not considered to be either appropriate or necessary to seek a greater number of councillors than the number of 66 fixed by the Secretary of State in The Bedfordshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008.