

LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 6 OCTOBER 2015

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**MEMBERSHIP OF ELECTED MEMBERS ON THE LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL
ACCESS FORUM**

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise the Forum of the resignation of a member of the Forum and its implications for the number of elected members able to serve on the Forum.

Background

2. The Local Access Forum (England) Regulations 2007 (the Regulations) state in regulation 3(4) that *“The the maximum number of members of a local access forum who may also be members of a district or county council or National Park authority for any part of the area of the forum is—*
 - a. *in the case of a local access forum consisting of not more than 16 members, two, and*
 - b. *in the case of a local access forum consisting of no fewer than 17 members, three”.*
3. In September 2015 a member of the Forum resigned, taking the total number of members on the Forum down to 16, and therefore below the required number of members to enable three Councillors to continue to sit on the Forum.
4. Elected members on the Forum are appointed by the County Council. The two members appointed by the County Council (the Appointing Authority) are Mrs Camamile and Mrs Posnett.
5. In May 2014, Mr Denney who was an ordinary member of the Forum stood for elections and was elected as a district councillor on Blaby District Council. At that time given that the County Council had only nominated two members, Mr Denney was permitted to continue to serve on the Forum, taking the third elected member position.

Current Position

6. Under regulation 4(4)(a) the Appointing Authority is required to suspend the membership of a Forum member if they have been elected to a district or county council and as a result regulation 3(4) is no longer being complied with.

7. Following consultation within the County Council and in the interest of enabling the existing membership to continue through to May 2017 when the membership of the Forum will be renewed, the Forum is requested to agree that one of the current elected members is able to continue serving as a 'participating observer'. Mrs Posnett has indicated that she would be willing, subject to approval, to act as that participating observer.

Recommendation

8. The Forum is asked to consider the contents of this report and indicate whether it supports the proposed way forward to appoint an elected member as a participating observer.

Background Papers

The Local Access Forum (England) Regulations 2007
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/268/contents/made>

Officer to contact

Ben Holihead
Committee Officer, Democratic Services
Tel: 0116 3056339
E-mail: ben.holihead@leics.gov.uk