

COUNCIL

24 NOVEMBER 2015

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A.5 VACANT SEAT ON THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

(Report prepared by Ian Ford)

Council will recall that, at its meeting held on 7 July 2015 (Minute 34 refers), I reported, inter alia, that, on 8 June 2015, Councillor Bucke had formally submitted his resignation as a member of the Local Plan Committee. As Councillor Bucke is not a member of any political group it was a matter for Council to fill the vacancy.

Having considered the matter, it had been moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor G V Guglielmi and:

“RESOLVED that:

- (b) *as the seat previously occupied by Councillor Bucke had been given to Councillor Bucke by the Labour Group, the Leader of the Labour Group be requested to nominate a member of his Group to fill the vacancy on the Local Plan Committee.”*

Following the Council meeting, the Council’s Senior Democratic Services Officer contacted the Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Ivan Henderson, to seek that nomination.

Councillor Henderson informed the Council’s Corporate Director (Corporate Services), by email on 10 July 2015, that the Labour Group did not wish to take up the vacancy on the Local Plan Committee on the grounds set out in his email, namely that the Labour Group had met its commitments under the Widdicombe Rules and, as such, were not required to fill any additional committee places.

In the light of the decision taken by the Labour Group, Council reconsidered this matter at its last meeting held on 8 September 2015 (Minute 60 refers) and decided: *“that the seat remain vacant whilst Group Leaders decide the appropriate allocation for the seat and, once agreement had been reached, to report back to Council.”*

Group Leaders met to discuss this matter on 23 October 2015 and it was agreed that to maintain the political proportionality and allocation of seats in accordance with the Widdicombe review, the seat should revert back to a non-aligned Member and that this is recommended to Council.

RECOMMENDED – That Council appoints a non-aligned Member to fill the vacancy on the Local Plan Committee.

**IAN DAVIDSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS LIST FOR
REPORTS OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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None.