

**COUNCIL  
23 JULY 2003**

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**APPOINTMENT TO AN EXTERNAL ORGANISATION:  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - RURAL COMMISSION  
(Acting Director of Corporate Services –Democratic Services)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 21 May 2003, the Council appointed one Member, Councillor Bettison, to the Local Government Association's (LGA's) Rural Commission. It has come to light that the Council is entitled to appoint two Members (or one Member and one officer) to the Commission. The purpose of this report is to invite the Council to appoint a second Member to serve on the Commission.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**That a second representative be appointed to serve on the Local Government Association's Rural Commission.**

**3. ADVICE FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Section 151 Officer

- 3.1 Any additional financial implications of nominating an additional Member to the Commission will arise from expenses paid for attending meetings of the organisation. It is expected that any additional costs will be met from within the existing budget for such expenses.

Borough Solicitor

- 3.2 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Access Implications

- 3.3 There are no access implications.

**4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Rural Commission usually meets twice per year. The annual meeting of the Commission is due to take place on 16 September 2003 in Harrogate, followed by the Rural Conference on 17 September. The Rural Commission provides the forum within the LGA for member authorities with an interest in rural affairs. The LGA states that the purpose of the Rural Commission is to:

- provide the forum in which rural authorities can discuss matters of common concern and exchange good practice and experience;

- assist the LGA take into account the needs, priorities and aspirations of rural authorities in formulating and promoting its policies;
- help the LGA to promote the role and interests of rural authorities and the ability of those authorities to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

4.2 The Rural Commission also appoints the Rural Executive and Rural Policy Groups, which meet more frequently than the Commission.

#### Background Papers

Letter from LGA re Rural Commission nominations.

#### Contact for Further Information

Simon Evans (01344) 352263 [simon.evans@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:simon.evans@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)