

By: Alex King, Deputy Leader
Head of Democratic Services

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – Friday 5 October 2012

Subject: COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK (CCN)

Classification Unrestricted

FOR DECISION

Introduction

1. Kent County Council currently has three representatives on the County Councils Network (CCN). Two (Mr P B Carter, Mr N J D Chard) are from the Conservative Group and one (Mrs T Dean) from the Liberal Democrat Group. There is also an unfilled vacancy.
2. The Conservative Group has indicated that it wishes to amend its representatives by appointing Mr A J King in place of Mr Chard.
3. The recently published “Quick Guide to the CCN” is included at **Appendix 1** to this report.

The County Councils Network Voting System

3. The CCN aims to work through consensus and, according to its Director, has not held a formal vote apart from the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman since its inception in 1997.
4. The CCN’s composition conforms proportionally to the overall number of County Councillors in its member authorities. Proportionality is achieved by allowing an under-represented political group to top up its membership from its overall pool of County Councillors. Each individual Member is entitled to 1 vote. The original provision for a particular Member to exercise 12 votes on Kent County Council’s behalf no longer applies.
5. I have also been informed by the CCN’s Director that substitutes are accorded full voting rights if there has been formal notification and that they can still attend and participate at meetings of the CCN Council if formal notification has not taken place.
6. Each of the CCN’s Member Authorities is guaranteed 1 Member on its Executive Committee. Overall proportionality is achieved through the “top up” system.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

7. The Committee is requested to confirm the appointment to the County Councils Network of Mr A J King in place of Mr Chard .

Peter Sass: Head of Democratic Services

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