

By: Head of Democratic Services

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 16 January 2008

Subject: Appointments to Outside Bodies – The Alliance (formerly Coalfield Communities Campaign)

Classification: Unrestricted

- Summary:
1. To note that the Coalfield Communities Campaign has been subsumed into a larger association of local authorities – The Alliance.
 2. To consider appointing Mrs E Rowbotham as an additional non-voting representative on The Alliance in her capacity as Local Member for Dover North (where the major Kent coalmines were located).
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1. Introduction

(1) For some years the County Council has appointed one representative to serve on the Coalfield Communities Campaign (CCC). The Committee may wish to note that, in June 2007, the CCC became part of a new enlarged association – The Alliance – which has been created to represent local authorities in the traditional industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales. The founding membership of The Alliance comprises the local authorities belonging to the CCC (i.e. including the County Council) and SteelAction. From now on, member authorities (including the County Council) will belong directly to The Alliance rather than to the CCC, and The Alliance will continue the CCC's role in pursuing coalfield-related issues.

(2) KCC's current representative on The Alliance is Mr Hibberd, but Mrs Rowbotham has taken a close interest in the work of the CCC/The Alliance, attending many of their meetings, because her electoral division, Dover North, includes the sites of the last three collieries to operate in Kent – Betteshanger, Snowdown and Tilmanstone.

(3) In view of the significance which the coalfields-related work of The Alliance has for Mrs Rowbotham's electoral division, the Committee is asked to regularise the position by authorising her to attend meetings of The Alliance as a non-voting representative of the County Council. This would authorise Mrs Rowbotham to claim from the County Council her expenses for attending Alliance meetings. While The Alliance allows each member authority to appoint only one voting representative – and for the County Council this will continue to be Mr Hibberd – there is no restriction on the number of non-voting representatives which member authorities can send to Alliance meetings.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to appoint Mrs E Rowbotham as an additional non-

voting representative on The Alliance in her capacity as Local Member for Dover North (where the major Kent coalmines were located).

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Background Documents: None