

## WEXHAM AND IVERS LAF - OPTIONS FOR FORMAL VOTING

1. The Wexham and Ivers LAF needs to determine voting arrangements where consensus decisions cannot be arrived at. The overriding principle is that wherever possible, decision-making at LAFs should be by common agreement without the need to vote. This will not require everyone to fully support everything all of the time but, for example, that everyone does agree that a proposal can go forward in spite of reservations that some individuals may have.
2. In practice, the more established LAFs are rarely voting. When voting takes place, it's usually a sort of straw poll to test out opinion at a large meeting where not everyone can speak rather than being a formal vote.
3. If the LAF insists on formal voting, there are different arrangements used by different LAFs that Wexham and Ivers LAF can take into consideration when reaching a decision on its own arrangements.

### OPTIONS

#### **“Model” constitution**

1 Vote for each formal member of the LAF i.e.:

- All County and District Councillors for the Local Community Area.
- One representative per parish. (Typically the parish rep will be a parish councillor but could be the parish clerk.)

Plus

- Anyone one else that the LAF chooses to invite into membership e.g. community or residents groups. Council policy (BCC Full Council July 2008) is to encourage LAFs to engage as widely as possible although membership by any such groups is at the LAF's discretion.

In Wexham and Iver that would mean:

- 2 County Councillors
- 8 District Councillors (2 vote as County Cllrs) - unlikely all would attend, but possible.
- 1 vote for Wexham Parish Council
- 1 vote for Iver Parish council

So if all attended from this list above, this would mean a maximum of 10 votes if the Parish Council representative is not a District or County Councillor.

Additional organisations e.g. Police or NAGs could be invited as non voting participants or as voting members

### **What other LAFs are doing**

No LAFs presently have voting members outside of County, District, Town and Parish councils, although outside organisations are represented.

Essentially Buckingham; Haddenham and Long Crendon; High Wycombe, Wendover, Missendens and Winslow LAFs all work on the basis of one vote per parish or town council

### **"Amersham" model**

The Amersham model allocated one vote per organisation. So in Wexham and Ivers this would be:

- 1 vote for Wexham Parish Council
- 1 vote for Iver Parish Council
- 1 vote for District Council
- 1 vote for BCC (not Chairman) plus chairman's casting vote in case of deadlock
- A vote for any other organisation that may be admitted to membership in due course

### **Weighted voting to reflect local council size**

There are other variations favoured by Buckinghamshire LAFs that take into account the number of parishes and or sizes of separate communities. Beeches LAF also took into account District Councillor weighting i.e. the majority of district councillors represent only one parish.

Beeches, Chesham, SW Chilterns, Princes Risborough, Chepping Wye, Greater Aylesbury and Gt Brickhill, Wing & Ivinghoe LAFs use versions of an electoral college

### **Issues to take into consideration**

- With regard to County and District councillors, a twin or triple hatter only gets one vote; therefore a parish might choose to appoint someone other than a district/county councillor as their representative.
- Where a councillor is both a County and District councillor, they are expected to exercise the vote as a County Councillor. Likewise, a district councillor who is a district and parish councillor is expected to exercise the vote as a District Councillor.
- To avoid any confusion if a formal vote is ever be required, it will be important that each voting organisation nominates a named person(s) and substitute(s) who can cast their vote.