

260624 APPENDIX C – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

Following on from the discussions at last meeting of Full Council, I wanted to try and clarify the position in relation to 'ex officio' membership of Cttees.

In terms of there being ex officio membership of Cttees, the legislation does make this possible [Local Government Act 1972, S106] and therefore Town Councils may often choose to make their Chair and Vice-Chair ex-officio members of any or all of their Cttees.

In terms of the voting rights of those ex officio members, this may be defined in either the Standing Orders of the Council, or in the Terms of Reference for the Cttee.

In the case of Bexhill, there is no mention of this in the Standing Orders.

However, there is something in the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Audit Committee, Amenities Cttee and Human Resources Sub Committee. In all cases these say:

'The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be ex officio members without voting rights.'

For the Engagement and Communications Cttee, this time the Terms of Reference says:

'The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be ex officio members without voting rights unless they are members of the Community Committee.' [The Community Committee is not currently operating].

This seems pretty clear, and the use of the word 'will' rather than 'may' seems to make it definite, that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor do not have voting rights on any of these Cttees.

If we did want this to change, then we could ask Full Council to consider amending these Terms of Reference and remove 'without voting rights' from the sentences.

So, to resolve any ambiguities, Full Council is asked to consider making this change.

Please note that the current Terms of Reference are included in the papers of this meeting for reference.