

## REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 17 January 2003)

### 1. MILFORD-ON-SEA AND COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCILS – INCREASE/DECREASE IN NUMBERS (REPORT H) (MINUTE NO. 47)

The Committee has considered two requests from Parish Councils to amend the numbers of councillors on those councils.

In respect of Milford-on-Sea, the Parish Council comprised twelve members at the last quadrennial elections in May 1999. However, only eight persons stood for election and were returned unopposed. The Parish Council requested that the number of parish councillors be reduced from twelve to ten. They then co-opted two members to what were then the remaining two vacancies. The District Council agreed to the reduction and an order to reduce numbers from twelve to ten was duly made.

The Parish Council has now advised that since the end of 1999, there has been a marked interest in local council amenity issues and a number of electors have put their names forward for co-option when vacancies on the Parish Council arise. For that reason, the Parish Council has requested that the number of councillors on the Parish should be reinstated to twelve.

Copythorne Parish Council has requested that the numbers on its council be reduced as they are encountering difficulties in recruiting members. They have requested the District Council a reduction from the current nine to seven. The Parish Council currently consists of 2 wards – Copythorne North and Copythorne South and the Parish Council has requested that each ward be reduced by one.

The change in the numbers of parish/town councillors is at the discretion of the District Council, under the provisions and the Local Government and Rating Act, 1997.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) ***That, in respect of Milford-on-Sea Parish Council, the number of parish councillors be increased from ten to twelve; and***
- (b) ***That, in respect of Copythorne Parish Council, the number of parish councillors be reduced from 9 to 7 and that the Parish wards comprise the following numbers of Councillors:***

***Copythorne North - 3  
Copythorne South – 4***

**CLLR W H DOW  
CHAIRMAN**