

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	<b>Neil Jack</b>
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Councillor Simon Blackburn</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>TH</sup> September 2014

## STATUTORY POSITIONS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To confirm the interim arrangements that have been put in place for the statutory positions of Director of Children's Services and Director of Adult Services.
- 1.2 The report will also seek to allocate to another position the designations in the constitution currently assigned to the Head of Legal Services who is also due to leave the Council.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To confirm that on an interim basis for a period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Delyth Curtis be designated as the statutory Director of Children's Services.
- 2.2 To confirm that on an interim basis for a period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Karen Smith be designated as the statutory Director of Adult Services.
- 2.3 To confirm that the current duties in the Constitution designated to the Head of Legal Services be assigned to Carmel White, the Chief Corporate Solicitor and that the deputy role be assigned to Gemma Duxbury, the Senior Solicitor (Corporate).
- 2.4 To agree that the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services be authorised to update the Constitution accordingly.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 At the Chief Officers Employment Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014, the Committee agreed that the Chief Executive be authorised to make interim designations to the positions of statutory Director of Children's Services and statutory Director of Adult Services. However, these were subject to confirmation at this Council meeting and this report seeks to do that.

3.2 The designations of the statutory roles of Director of Children's Services and Director of Adult Services both require Council approval. However, the national guidance for the two roles allows interim designations to be made. The Chief Officers Employment Committee at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July agreed that in view of the next Council meeting being in September, there could be a need for the Chief Executive to make interim designations before that meeting which would be put forward for confirmation by Council.

3.3 The Chief Executive consequently agreed, to allow for a handover period, that from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014, Karen Smith be designated Statutory Director of Adult Services and from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, Delyth Curtis be designated Statutory Director of Children's Services, both designations to be interim positions until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

3.4a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? **No**

3.4b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? **Yes**

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce".

#### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The Chief Officers Employment Committee met on 4<sup>th</sup> July and that Committee was informed that the current Director of Children's Services, Sue Harrison had gained a position in another Local Authority. It was also reported that the Chief Executive had agreed that Delyth Curtis who is currently the Council's Director of Adult Services would take on the Children's Services directorate responsibilities and recommended that she was appointed to the statutory role on an interim basis.

5.2 Karen Smith who was the Deputy Director of Adult Services was also recommended by the Chief Executive to take on the statutory role of Director of Adult Services, on an interim basis.

5.3 The Chief Officers Employment Committee was informed of the suitability of both individuals to the recommended roles and agreed to recommend Council that they be appointed to these statutory positions.

5.3 Christine Baines the current Head of Legal Services is due to leave the Council from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and it is recommended that all the duties listed in the

Constitution relating to the Head of Legal Services be allocated to the new Chief Corporate Solicitor, Carmel White. In turn, it is recommended that the deputy Proper Officer to this position be Gemma Duxbury the Senior Solicitor (Corporate).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

**No**

**List of Appendices:**

None

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 Both statutory roles require Council approval and the position of Head of Legal Services no longer exists.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None. This report is just seeking confirmation of statutory roles and duties in the constitution.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None. This report is just seeking confirmation of statutory roles and duties in the constitution.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Consultation on the revised structure following the departure of Sue Harrison had already been undertaken and the Chief Officers Employment Committee supports the recommendations put forward. A restructure of the Legal services division has also taken place in recent months and the Chief Corporate Solicitor is the most appropriate position to take on the duties previously assigned to the Head of Legal services.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None