



SPECIAL COUNCIL - 21ST MARCH 2013

SUBJECT: INTERIM GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY: ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To implement interim governance measures within the Council.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

2.1 To contribute towards the implementation of effective governance procedures across the Council.

3. THE REPORT

3.1 Following receipt of the Wales Audit Office Report (the Report) issued in the public interest under S.22 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, it will be necessary to consider fully the recommendations set out in the Report in a Special Council meeting that will be convened in accordance with the statutory requirements.

3.2 As a result of officers initial consideration of the recommendations in the Report it is intended to undertake a thorough review of governance processes across the Authority.

3.3 In order to put sufficient resources in terms of staff to this task, members are asked to approve the following recommendations for a period of six months from the date of this report:-

3.1.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer relinquish this role. For the avoidance of doubt the current postholder will continue to undertake his duties as Head of Legal Services and will continue to be afforded the statutory protection afforded to the post of Monitoring Officer.

3.1.2 The Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer/Head of Democratic Services assumes the role of Monitoring Officer and relinquishes the role of Head of Democratic Services. Legislation prevents an officer from holding the role of Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services.

3.1.3 That the Council's Head of Legal Services assumes the role of Head of Democratic Services. Assuming this change is approved by Council, this will be reported to the Democratic Services Committee at their next meeting.

3.1.4 In addition in order to support the Monitoring Officer a solicitor is seconded internally to assist the Monitoring Officer in the review of governance to be undertaken.

3.4 For the avoidance of doubt, during this period the Council's Monitoring Officer will report directly to the Council's Chief Executive.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None arising from this Report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 It is estimated that the proposed arrangements will cost between £10,000 to £28,000 for the six-month period dependant on the outcome of the temporary re-evaluation of the posts affected by the changes and any necessary backfill. These "one off" costs can be met from Corporate Service reserves/surpluses from prior years that are held in the Authority's balance sheet. Hence, there are no ongoing revenue/budgetary implications for the Authority.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 As set out in the Report

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Report reflects the views of the consultees.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Council approves the interim governance arrangements as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the Report.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.2 To enable the Council to implement a thorough review of governance procedures.

9.2 In accordance with the requirements of the legislation it is necessary for Council to formally appoint the positions of Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services.

10. STATUTORY POWERS

10.1 Local Governments Acts 1972 and 2000
Local Government & Housing Act 1989

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