



COUNCIL – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: INTERIM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is seek agreement from Council with regards to the interim arrangements currently in place for the Corporate Management Team.
- 1.2 Council is also asked to consider the interim governance arrangements in place within the Authority.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Interim arrangements have been in place for a period of six months for Corporate Management team and governance, which now need to be reviewed by Council and a decision made with regards to their continuation.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 To achieve the Council's strategic aims, provide services as planned and to fulfil its statutory duties, including the duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement.
- 3.2 To implement effective governance across the Council.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement that all Councils shall have a Head of Paid Service (within the meaning of to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) at all times. In accordance with the Local Government (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006 and the Councils Officer Employment Rules, I was appointed by Council on 23 July 2013, on an interim basis.
- 4.2 At the Special Council on the 12 March 2013, Members agreed interim arrangements for the Corporate Management Team (CMT). My appointment on the 23 July 2013, has overtaken the previous decision re the Acting Chief Executive but other aspects remain in place pending review i.e. Sandra Aspinall as Acting Deputy Chief Executive and Nicole Scammell as Acting Director of Corporate Services.
- 4.3 Members also agreed the following temporary arrangements (for a period of six months), at a Special Council held on 21 March 2013, to support the Council's thorough review of governance processes across the Authority:

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 The Council's Head of Legal Services assumes the role of Head of Democratic Services and relinquishes the role of Monitoring Officer. The postholder continues to be afforded the statutory protection afforded to the post of Monitoring Officer
- 4.3.3 To support the Monitoring Officer a solicitor should be seconded internally to assist the Monitoring Officer in the review of governance to be undertaken.
- 4.4 As the interim arrangements detailed in this report have now been in place for six months, it is appropriate that they are reviewed by Council and a decision made with regards to their continuation.
- 4.5 Following Council's decision, other temporary management arrangements resultant from these interim appointments will need to be considered by the appropriate Director.
- 4.6 Council will be aware that Avon and Somerset Police notified the Authority on 4 September 2013, that the period of bail for Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Barnett has been extended until January 13th 2014, while investigations continue.
- 4.7 In this regard, if Council wishes to agree the extension of the interim arrangements referred to in this report, it would seem appropriate to agree a further period of six months, at which time they can again be reviewed. As the Interim Chief Executive, I support the continuation of these temporary arrangements.
- 4.8 Should the opportunity arise earlier to review these arrangements, then action can be taken to do so.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken on this report, as it covers an extension to interim arrangements already agreed. The Council's review of governance processes across the Authority includes equalities considerations at each stage and is noted within individual reports to Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The cost to temporarily extend the current arrangements for Corporate Management Team for a further six months is £25,819.
- 6.2 The cost to temporarily extend the current arrangements for improving governance within the Authority for a further six months is £7,349.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Personnel implications are included in the report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All consultation responses have been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Council is asked to agree the extension of the interim arrangements for Corporate Management Team for a further six months, at which time they will be reviewed.
- 9.2 Council is asked to agree the extension of the interim arrangements to support the Council's review of governance processes across the Authority for a further six months, at which time they will be reviewed.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure the Council has effective Corporate Management arrangements to lead the Council to deliver services to the residents of the County Borough
- 10.2 To support the Council's implementation of a thorough review of governance procedures.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000
Local Government & Housing Act 1989
Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006

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