

Council Issues

1. Confirmation of Membership of Committees

The following membership has been confirmed by notice given by the Conservative Group Leader:

- The five Conservative Members of the Joint Standards Committee appointed by the County Council are Councillors Barker, Cutmore, Guglielmi, McEwen and Pike.

2. Appointment of Director of Adult Social Services

The Council is required by section 6 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 to have a Director of Adult Social Services. The current director is Mr Dave Hill, Executive Director of People Commissioning, who is also the statutory Director of Childrens Services.

Dave Hill is to serve as the President of the Association of Directors of Childrens Services for 2016-17. This is a key national role. Council is asked to agree that the role of Director of Adult Social Services should be transferred to the Director for Adult Operations. This will allow Dave Hill to concentrate on being the Essex Director of Childrens Services and on his new national role.

Dave Hill has also indicated that he intends to appoint Helen Lincoln as Deputy Director for Childrens Services. This does not require any changes to the Constitution.

Recommended:

That the Constitution be amended with effect from 1 April 2016 so that the relevant part of paragraph 4.4 which reads:

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|---|--|
| Executive Director for People Commissioning | Director of Children's Services appointed under Section 18 of the Children Act 2004 and Director of Adult Social Services appointed under section 6 of the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970. |
|---|--|

Is replaced with the following text:

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|---|--|
| Executive Director for People Commissioning | Director of Children's Services appointed under Section 18 of the Children Act 2004. |
| Director for Adult Operations | Director of Adult Social Services appointed under section 6 of the Local Authorities Social Services Act 1970. |

3. Appointment of Returning Officer

The Council is required to appoint a returning officer for electoral purposes. The current returning officer is Philip Thomson, Director of Essex Legal Services who will retire on 31 March 2016. The Council needs to have a returning officer in place from 1 April 2016.

It is proposed that Gavin Jones, Chief Executive, should be appointed as returning officer.

Recommended:

That Gavin Jones, Chief Executive, be appointed as Essex County Council's returning officer with effect from 1 April 2016.

4. Minor Update to Constitution: Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997

The Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 allows the Council to issue certificates as to the validity of certain contracts. Certificates may only be issued by senior officers within the Council who are authorised for that purpose. These certificates are sometimes required when minor amendments to PFI contracts are made. The need for a certificate can arise at short notice and a delay can hold up important transactions. In order to improve resilience it is proposed that Margaret Lee, Director of Corporate and Customer Services and Section 151 Officer, should be approved as an additional officer authorised to issue certificates. This would be achieved by amendment of the Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

Recommended:

That a new paragraph 15.3.2(ix) be inserted into the Constitution (delegations to the Executive Director for Corporate and Customer Services):

- '(ix) To authorise the making and issue of any formal documents and to authenticate documents on behalf of the Council.'