

Report of the Monitoring Officer – Appointments to outside bodies, Director of Adult Social Services and Deputy Section 151 Officer

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1. Summary

- 1.1** This report sets out decisions on proposed changes to appointments to the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Joint Scrutiny Committee, the appointment of an interim Director of Adult Social Services and also the appointment of a second Deputy Section 151 Officer.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Appointment to Heart of the South West LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee

To approve the appointment of Cllr A Bown, Cllr M Lewis, Cllr S Coles and Cllr R Williams to the LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee (see section 3.1 below).

2.2 Appointment of Director of Adult Social Services

To appoint Mel Lock (Adults Services Operations Director) to the role of Director of Adult Social Services with effect from 1st August 2019 (see section 3.2 of this report).

2.3 Appointment of Deputy Section 151 Officer

To appoint the post and postholder of Strategic Finance Manager, currently held by Jason Vaughan, as a Deputy Section 151 Officer (see section 3.3 of this report).

3. Background

3.1. Appointments to Heart of the South West LEP Joint Scrutiny Committee:

- 3.1.1** In July 2018, the Council agreed to establish a Joint Scrutiny Committee of council members from across the Heart of the South West to scrutinise the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership. The Council appointed four non-executive members to the Joint Scrutiny Committee on the basis of political proportionality which meant there were three conservative members and one liberal democrat member.

3.1.2 Improving the accountability and transparency of Local Enterprise Partnerships are Government priorities and are of considerable interest to the County Council as the accountable body for the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership. Improving local authority scrutiny of Local Enterprise Partnerships is a key element of the accountability and transparency requirements.

3.1.3 Devon County Council are the host authority for the Joint Scrutiny Committee and details of the meetings can be found using the following link:

<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=456&Year=0>

3.1.4 Following the district council elections in May 2019 it has been necessary to review the appointments to the Joint Scrutiny Committee and it is proposed to appoint the following SCC members:
Cllr A Bown, Cllr M Lewis, Cllr R Williams and Cllr S Coles

3.2 Appointment of Director of Adult Social Services

3.2.1 The Director of Adult Social Services, Stephen Chandler, has tendered his resignation and will be joining Oxfordshire County Council.

3.2.2 Members will know the energy, passion and enthusiasm he has brought to the role and what a difference that has made to the transformation work in Adult Social Care, the Councils Financial Imperative Programme and Transforming Lives Programme.

3.2.3 In terms of a permanent replacement for the Director of Adult Social Services role, a full recruitment campaign will start in early September

3.2.4 Pending the departure of Stephen Chandler and the recruitment to the role of the Director of Adult Social Services, the Chief Executive recommends that Mel Lock (Adults Services Operations Director) is appointed as the Acting Director of Adult Social Services with effect from 1st August 2019.

3.3 Appointment of a Deputy Section 151 Officer

3.3.1 In February 2019, the Council appointed the Interim Director of Finance (Sheila Collins) to the statutory role of Section 151 Officer. Council needs to formally approve the appointment of any deputy Section 151 Officers who will undertake the statutory role in the absence of the Section 151 Officer. Elizabeth Watkin (Strategic Finance Manager - Chief Accountant) is currently one of the Councils Deputy Section 151 Officers.

Both the Interim Director of Finance and the Chief Executive recommend that Council appoint an additional Deputy Section 151 Officer to provide resilience. It is therefore proposed that the Strategic Finance Manager, Jason Vaughan, is appointed as a Deputy Section 151 Officer.

3.3.2 The Officer Scheme of Delegation refers to officers authorised to substitute for a Director and key statutory posts. Subject to the Council's approval to the proposed appointment, the Monitoring Officer will need to be amend the Scheme of Delegation to reflect this change.

4. Implications

4.1 Legal & Risk: This report complies with all legal requirements. The only risk to the Council would result from the Council failing to fulfil its legal obligations as set out in the report through any decisions taken or not taken at this meeting.

4.2 All of the proposed appointments are in accordance with legal requirements and the Councils Constitution.

4.2 Financial, equalities, sustainability and community safety implications: There are no direct equalities implications arising from any of the proposals in this report. There are also no direct financial, sustainability or community safety implications.

5. Background papers

5.1 Councils Constitution dated May 2019