



<u>Committee and date</u> Council 22 July 2010 10.00 a.m.
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<u>Item No</u> 9 Public
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APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

Responsible Officer Richard Thomas
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1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to give effect to the new statutory duty to designate a Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended:

That the Head of Policy and Performance be designated as the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

REPORT

3.0 Statutory Scrutiny Officer

3.1 Section 31 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 came into force on 1 April this year which required local authorities in England (with the exception of district councils in two tier areas) to designate a statutory scrutiny officer (SSO).

3.2 The functions of the SSO are to:

- Promote the role of the authority's O&S Committees
- Provide support to the authority's O&S Committees and the Members of those committees
- Provide support and guidance to Members of the authority, Members of the Executive and officers in relation to the functions of the authority's O&S Committee(s)

3.3 The person appointed to this role cannot be the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer or the Chief Finance Officer. Responsibilities would include:-

- Co-ordinating the support available to deliver outcomes from overview and scrutiny activity undertaken by the Council

- Assisting in ensuring that proper provision is made for independent O&S support to Members

4.0 Officer Nomination

- 4.1 The Head of Policy and Performance also carries the responsibility of Transformation Programme Manager. The statutory responsibilities of this new scrutiny role is complimentary to these duties as there will be clear links between the work of the transformation programme and the scrutiny committee work programmes as they develop. There is also merit in the post holder having a corporate, objective view outside of the operational day to day function.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998
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Environmental Appraisal

N/A

Risk Management Appraisal

The Council is obliged by law to designate a Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Community / Consultations Appraisal
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N/A

Cabinet Member

Keith Barrow

Local Member

All

Appendices

None
