

CHESHIRE EAST SHADOW COUNCIL

Date: 13 MAY 2008
Report of: LEAD OFFICER
Title DESIGNATION OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER AND
INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To confirm the designation of the Interim Monitoring Officer and Interim Chief Finance Officer for Cheshire East Shadow Council.

2.0 Decisions Required

- 2.1 To designate Macclesfield Borough Council's Monitoring Officer as the Interim Monitoring Officer for the Shadow Council.
- 2.2 To designate Macclesfield Borough Council's Chief Finance Officer as the Interim Chief Finance Officer for the Shadow Council

3.0 Implications for Transitional Costs

- 3.1 There are no direct transitional costs resulting from these decisions.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 Article 8 of the Cheshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008 imposes a duty on the shadow authority at its first meeting to designate on an interim basis an officer of one of the existing councils-
 - a) to be responsible for performing the duties of monitoring officer
 - b) to be responsible for the administration of the financial affairs of the authority

These designations will continue until the full recruitment process for the posts which are designated Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer in the new Council have been completed (which must be no later than 31 December 2008) and the successful candidates take up their appointment.

- 4.2 The officers who have been undertaking these roles for the Joint Committees in the period prior to the Shadow Authority elections were

appointed on an ad hoc basis by the Lead Officer of the Joint Implementation Team in consultation with the Chief Executives of the affected Councils. These roles have to date been undertaken by the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer of Macclesfield BC. This arrangement was endorsed by the Joint Committee.

- 4.3 In order to be in a position to make a recommendation to the Shadow Council at its first meeting the Lead Officer, again in consultation with the Chief Executives of the affected Councils and having regard to the commitment to treat all employees across all Councils fairly, invited all existing Monitoring Officers and Chief Finance Officers of the affected authorities to indicate whether or not they wished to be considered for these roles. This was in accordance with a process for appointments to roles to support the Shadow Council which has been developed by the HR Group and discussed with the trade unions.
- 4.4 In making such an invitation, the officers were advised that continuity would be an important consideration having regard to the need to avoid any unreasonable or unnecessary delay which could increase the risk of an incomplete or failed implementation of the changes required by 1 April 2009. They were also advised that in order not to disadvantage any of the existing statutory officers of the affected authorities that regardless of whether or not they were appointed to the interim roles they would be given opportunities to work with members of the Shadow Council before any final appointments were made.
- 4.5 In the event in the light of the assurances given only one officer other than those who have already been carrying out the role for the Joint Committee expressed an interest in being considered for one of the Interim Roles. That officer together with the officer currently carrying out the relevant role were interviewed by a panel consisting of the Chief Executives of the affected authorities. In the event it was the unanimous view of that panel, having considered all matters, that for continuity reasons they would recommend to the Shadow Council that the officer who has been carrying out the role for the Joint Committee should be designated as the Interim Officer.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 These officers will be responsible for providing advice to Members and officers on key decisions for the new Council. It is recommended that the interim officers are designated as stated in paragraph 2 above.

For further information :-

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Background Documents:

Documents are available for inspection at:
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