

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 April 2010
Report of: Democratic Services Manager
Subject/Title: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To consider the appointment of the Authority's Statutory Scrutiny Officer

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1.1 That the Governance and Constitution Committee be informed that this Committee supports the appointment of the Democratic Services Manager as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 In accordance with Section 31 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council has a statutory duty to designate one of its officers as the Councils Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 None

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 None

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The constitution will require amending to reflect the appointment of the Councils Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2010/2011 and beyond

- 8.1 None

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There is a statutory requirement for all local authorities in England, except district councils, to designate an officer as the authority's Scrutiny Officer

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 None

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 Section 31 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 states that all authorities in England are to designate a Scrutiny Officer, with the exception of district councils in two tier areas. The functions of this role are to:

- Promote the role of the authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Committees.
- Support the authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Committees and the Members of those committees'
- Provide support and guidance to:
 1. Members of the authority
 2. Members of the executive of the authority, and
 3. Officers of the authority

In relation to the functions of the authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Committees

- 11.2 An officer designated by a local authority under this section is to be known as the authority's 'Scrutiny Officer'.
- 11.3 A local authority may not designate any of the following under this section:
- The head of the authority's paid service designated under section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
 - The authority's Monitoring Officer designated under section 5 of that Act;
 - The authority's Chief Finance Officer, within the meaning of that section.
- 11.4 The appointment of an officer to this post will be made by Council following a recommendation by Governance and Constitution Committee. This Committee is being asked to make a recommendation to Governance and Constitution Committee.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

- 12.1 None

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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