

## **Council – 9th April 2018**

### **Designation of Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

#### **1. Summary**

The Council is required by law to designate an officer as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer. The purpose of the role is to promote and provide support to Members on the Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Executive Director of Economy and Environment be appointed as Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

#### **3. Report detail**

- 3.1 The role of Statutory Scrutiny Officer (SSO) was originally created in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. These provisions were repealed and developed in the Localism Act 2011 which amended the Local Government Act 2000.

##### **Role**

- 3.2 As set out in law the role of the SSO is:

*(a) to promote the role of the authority's overview and scrutiny committee or committees,*

*(b) to provide support to the authority's overview and scrutiny committee or committees and the members of that committee or those committees,*

*(c ) to provide support and guidance to—*

*(i) members of the authority,*

*(ii) members of the executive of the authority, and*

*(iii) officers of the authority,*

*in relation to the functions of the authority's overview and scrutiny committee or committees.*

- 3.3 In practice the SSO is a point of contact and support for all scrutiny members and officers as well as being the senior officer lead for the Scrutiny Overview Committee and overseeing the production of the Scrutiny Annual Report to Council. However, a recent Parliamentary Inquiry recommended that the role and remit be increased.

##### **Current arrangements**

- 3.4 The post was last allocated to the Executive Director for Children's Services in February 2016 and was fulfilled by David Haley until he left the organisation in

late 2017. Upon David Haley leaving the authority the post was not reallocated due to ongoing recruitment to senior management posts that is now completed.

### **Restrictions on appointment**

- 3.5 The SSO cannot be held by an officer undertaking one of the existing statutory roles, namely:
- the Head of Paid Service
  - the Monitoring Officer
  - Chief Finance Officer.

## **4. Council Corporate Plan priorities**

- 4.1 By promoting and supporting Members to undertake effective scrutiny the role of SSO has an overarching influence on the achievement of all elements of the Councils Corporate Plan priorities.

## **5. Risk management**

- 5.1 The law requires the Council to have a SSO. If the role is not appointed to then there is a risk that this could be noted negatively by, for example, external inspectors or other bodies.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 There is no financial allowance for undertaking the role.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 The Localism Act 2011 states that Council must have a SSO. Once an Officer has been identified for the SSO role a report will be drafted to Council as the appointing body.

## **8. Property implications**

None.

## **9. Health and wellbeing implications**

None.

## **10. Staffing implications**

The Executive Director of Economy and Environment will undertake the role in addition to his existing responsibilities.

**11. Equality implications**

None.

**12. Consultation**

None.

**Background papers**

None.

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