

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
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CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP

DATE: 25 January 2010

TITLE	Delegated authority for the appointment of Assistant Directors	ITEM NO.
REPORT OF	Chief Executive	5

PURPOSE	To propose an amendment to the Constitution to allow for the Head of Paid Service (or delegated Director) to appoint Assistant Directors
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ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL	The proposal was discussed by Cabinet on 7/1/10 during an officer briefing in relation to the review of senior management
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RECOMMENDATION: That, subject to the endorsement of the General Purposes Committee the Council be recommended to amend sections E2 (8.1.1), F4 (5.1.4), H3 (3.2.1.3), and H4 of the Constitution to facilitate officer appointments of posts at Assistant Director level across the organisation, subject to Executive approval.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Introduction

1. Following a briefing for Cabinet Members in relation to the review of senior management structures, it was proposed that consideration be given to the delegation of appointments of posts at Assistant Director level to the Head of Paid Service (or delegated Director).
2. Rules governing the appointment of Directors and Assistant Directors (Chief and Deputy Chief Officers) are contained in statute, regulations and the Council's Constitution. The latter currently provides that the Appointments Sub-Committee is responsible for the appointment of Assistant Directors (together with the Head of Paid Service and Directors).

Proposal

3. It is proposed that, subject to the endorsement of the General Purposes Committee on 10 February 2010, the Constitution Advisory Group consider making a recommendation to Council that the authority to appoint posts at Assistant Director level is delegated on an ongoing basis to the Head of Paid Service (or delegated Director).
4. However, given that Assistant Directors are classed as Deputy Chief Officers, it will still be necessary, before an offer of appointment is made, for the Monitoring Officer to notify every member of the Executive of the relevant details of the proposed appointments, and offers will not be made until it is confirmed that there are no material or well founded objections.
5. During this initial process of review, this will allow the Authority to fill these key roles quickly, following the principles contained with the Council's Management of Change policy. Longer term, it will establish an appropriate level of delegation to officers.
6. This change would involve a number of amendments to the wording of sections of the Constitution, which relate to the appointment of Assistant Directors.

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Key Background Papers:
None