

## **General Purposes Committee 15 January 2010**

### **Draft Minute – Delegated Authority for the Appointment of Assistant Director**

The Advisory Group considered a report of the Chief Executive proposing an amendment to the Constitution to allow for the Head of Paid Service (or delegated Director) to appoint Assistant Directors.

A discussion ensued regarding the position of statutory posts such as the S151 Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Scrutiny Officer. It was noted that there was a legal requirement that an independent review take place before the postholders of the designated S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer could be dismissed by the Council.

Members were reminded that appointments to any post at a lower tier than Assistant Director were statutorily required to be made by officers, not members of the Council.

Members were of the view that if the posts of S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer were at Assistant Director level or above, the appointments should be made by Members. All other Assistant Director appointments should be delegated to the Chief Executive.

A discussion took place on the review of the Senior Management Structure which was currently in progress.

Members noted that the proposals for the Senior Management Review, including moving to a four directorate model, had been subject of consideration by the Executive which had authorised the Chief Executive to implement the necessary arrangements, including a review of Assistant Director and Head of Service level posts. Following questions from Members, a copy of the relevant minute of the Executive was circulated at the meeting.

A view was expressed that there should be an opportunity for the emergent management structure to be subject to review at Member level to ensure it was fit for purpose.

Reference was also made to the fact that the outcome of the review would require amendments throughout the Constitution, including the structure diagram at part H2. It was noted however that the review was not yet sufficiently progressed to enable officers to advise the Advisory Group of the consequential amendments likely to be required to the Constitution. It would be necessary to report to Council at the appropriate time regarding the designation of statutory officers where these varied from the Council's current structure.

It was suggested that the management structure diagram included in the Constitution should perhaps be at a higher level and reflect the tier of officers to be appointed by Members.

**AGREED TO RECOMMEND**

**that, subject to the endorsement of General Purposes Committee, sections E2 (8.1.1), F4 (5.1.4), H3 (3.2.1.3) and H4 of the Constitution be amended to facilitate officer appointments of posts at Assistant Director level across the organisation.**