

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE SHADOW COUNCIL
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10 APRIL 2008

SUBJECT	DESIGNATION OF INTERIM HEAD OF STAFF, INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER AND INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (To seek approval to designate on an interim basis the required statutory officers and their deputies for Central Bedfordshire Shadow Council)
REPORT OF	Proper Officer of Mid Bedfordshire District Council
<i>Contact Officer: Jaki Salisbury (Tel: 01462 611004) Jon Ruddick (Tel: 0845 8496147)</i>	

IMPLICATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY	None
FINANCIAL	None
LEGAL	Local Government Act 1972 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 The Bedfordshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008
PERSONNEL/EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES	None
COMMUNITY DEV/SAFETY	None
TRADE UNIONS	None
HUMAN RIGHTS	None

OTHER DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO REPORT

RECOMMENDATION(S):

<p>That the Council approves the designation of the Interim Heads of Staff, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer, and their Deputies, as set out in paragraph 8 of this report.</p>

1. The proposing authorities are jointly required under the Bedfordshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008 to put in place arrangements to achieve a successful transition.
2. This report addresses the specific need to put in place interim statutory “proper officers” and is a joint report from the Chief Executives of the proposing authorities.

3. The Order itself creates the Shadow Authority and requires that the Shadow Executive be established. The *draft Implementation Strategy Creating Central Bedfordshire* puts in place the framework to achieve the transition and this document, including the governance structure, is being submitted to the meeting of the Shadow Executive to be held immediately following the meeting of the Shadow Council. The governance structure sets out the various member and officer bodies, groups and teams which are needed to take this process forward. The Shadow Executive will set up the Central Implementation Team (CIT) which is made up of officers from all three Councils together with key invited partners such as the PCT, Police, Fire, Business and others. A representative of Bedford Borough will also attend and a reciprocal arrangement will apply.
4. Reporting to the CIT is the Officer Programme Board. Officers from all three authorities are on this board. Richard Ellis (Communications) , Simon Redmore (Programme Management), Peter Stabb (Corporate Resources) and Martin Williams (Human Resources). In addition, we have appointed a consultant, Marion Headicar (who has both Unitary and District Council Chief Executive experience) and she will oversee and coordinate the service design for Central Beds. Supporting the Shadow Executive and the Programme Board are Member and officer working groups covering the six key portfolio areas. In all of these areas the lead roles are shared between the lead authorities as required by the Order.
5. The Corporate Resources remit being led by Peter Stabb includes finance, legal and governance specialists.
6. Within this overall governance structure the Order also specifically requires the designation of statutory officers on an interim basis to carry out responsibilities in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These are the duties of the Head of Staff, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer. The Interim Chief Finance Officer is also the Section 151 Local Government Act 1972 Officer and needs to be financially qualified and of sufficient status to carry out the role.
7. The success of the overall arrangements rely on allocating responsibilities appropriately and we recommend to Shadow Council that the interim designations apply until permanent statutory officers are appointed and that the following officers be designated to take on these interim roles :-
8.
 - (a) Interim Head of Staff/Deputy Head of Staff – Jaki Salisbury / Jon Ruddick
 - (b) Interim Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer – Barbara Morris/Amerjit Kang
 - (c) Interim Chief Finance Officer/Deputy Chief finance Officer– David Sutherland/Nick Murley

Background Papers: None

Location of Papers: N/A

File Reference: N/A