

Subject:	Transitional Officer Arrangements for Finance & Resources Functions		
Date of Meeting:	3 December 2015		
Report of:	Head of Law and Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis	Tel: 29-1500
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for changes to the scheme of delegations to Officers on a transitional basis pending the appointment of a permanent Executive Director, Finance & Resources. The report also recommends the appointment of an Officer to represent the Council as one of the governors of Sussex Community NHS Trust

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Members agree the transitional arrangements and consequential changes to Officer delegations set out in paragraphs 3.3.1 to 3.3.5 of the report pending the appointment of a permanent Executive Director of Finance & Resources;
- 2.2 That the above arrangements come into effect from 5 December 2015 and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary changes to the scheme of delegations to Officers to reflect the above pending the permanent arrangements.
- 2.3 That Members appoint Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director of Children's Services, as the Council's representative in the Sussex Community NHS Trust.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Rachel Musson, the Council's Interim Executive Director of Finance & Resources, will be leaving the Council, her last working day being 4th December 2015. She has played a key role in helping the Council through a difficult year, including helping set the 2015/16 budget and leading on a number of corporate initiatives such as the Orbis shared service initiative, the Organisational Learning Review and preparations for the 2016/17 budget in addition to the day to day running of the Directorate.

- 3.2 The position of Executive Director, Finance & Resources has been advertised with interviews taking place in January with the successful person expected to start around March-April time depending on how much notice they need to give their current employer.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the following arrangements are put in place for the transitional period:
- 3.3.1 It is proposed to appoint Nigel Manvell, Assistant Director, Finance & Procurement (including deputy Section 151 officer) as **Acting Director of Finance & Resources** for the transitional period. The functions currently comprised in the delegations to the Executive Director, Finance & Resources (except those relating to Property, HR and Organisational Development and Performance Improvement) will be discharged by the Acting Director, Finance & Resources.
 - 3.3.2 The role includes statutory section 151 responsibilities (Officer Responsible for the Financial Affairs of the Council.) Nigel Manvell has extensive experience as a Finance Officer at a high level including as Acting Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer for the Council. He has been closely involved in the current budget setting process
 - 3.3.3 It is proposed to move the property delegations to one of the Acting Executive Directors of Environment, Development & Housing (Nick Hibberd) for the transitional period. This will enable the property function to be managed alongside the Major Projects Team where there is synergy.
 - 3.3.4 It is proposed to move the Performance, Improvement and Programmes function to the Assistant Chief Executive for the transitional period. The service previously formed part of the Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate where there is recent experience to enable a smooth running in the interim period.
 - 3.3.5 Finally, it is proposed that the HR and Organisational Development function reports to the Chief Executive.
 - 3.3.6 The above arrangements, taken together, will enable the services to operate effectively during the transitional period while giving the Acting Director of Finance & Resources the ability to focus on the budget. They are also designed to minimise the cost associated with Acting Up arrangements.

Sussex Community NHS Trust

- 3.4 The Council, has been approached by Sussex Community Sussex Trust with a request that we appoint a representative to act as a local authority appointed governor. The arrangements we have with other NHS Trusts covering Brighton & Hove involve officers (mainly the Director of Public Health and Executive Director of Adults) being appointed. It is proposed that Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director of Children's Services, is appointed to be the Council's representative. This is in line with arrangements made by the other local authorities.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The appointment of Chief Officers on an Acting basis is delegated under our constitution to the Chief Executive. However, because the proposals involve transferring some services, albeit on a temporary basis, to other Directorates, they require P&R approval and that is why the report is coming to this committee. Other arrangements would

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 As this relates to a temporary officer arrangement and an external appointment, there was no need for public consultation. However, all the Officers affected have been informed and their views taken into account.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The proposals will ensure compliance with constitutional requirements as well as being the most effective practical arrangement and are therefore recommended for approval.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The cost of the arrangements will be covered from existing resources.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rachel Musson

Date: 24/11/2015

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The proposed arrangements are consistent with the law and the Council's constitution.

Lawyer Consulted:

Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis

Date: 24/11/2015

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

None