

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Committee for the Appointment  
of a Chief Executive

**Date:** 22 February 2011

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor D Collins

**Item:** 16(a)

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## **1. APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF EXECUTIVE – PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Recommending:**

- (1) That the option of shared Chief Executive with other neighbouring Councils be not pursued; and**
  - (2) That the other discussions by the Committee on the Chief Executive post be noted.**
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### **Introduction**

- 1. We reported at the last Council meeting on the work we are undertaking on behalf of the Council in connection with the vacant position of Chief Executive.
- 2. The Council adopted our recommendations regarding:
  - (a) administrative responsibilities for consulting on any preferred candidate for the position;
  - (b) an extension of the temporary contract for the Deputy Chief Executive to be Acting Chief Executive until 31 August 2011;
  - (c) a provisional timetable for any appointment; and
  - (d) discussions regarding options for fulfilling the role of Chief Executive, other than by a direct appointment.
- 3. The purpose of this report is to bring the Council up to date following our most recent meeting on 14 February 2011.

### **Progress Report**

- 4. We were advised by the Chairman of the Committee that a joint Chief Executive shared with two neighbouring District Councils had not been enthusiastically received. Although we can see some advantages in principle of the joint Chief Executive idea, we can also see some negative points, not least the need for this Council to make its own case on matters affecting the District. Our view is that the Council will need its own Chief Executive to represent its interests.
- 5. The Chief Executive decision continues to be beset by current uncertainties in local

government including the financial situation. We were also advised that the Council is now able to make use of consultancy advice on its operations through Improvement East and its consultants. Our Chairman advised that this was likely to be free of charge.

6. Taking the current uncertainties into account and bearing in mind that external advice may identify the need for a wider review of the management structure, we have deferred making any firm recommendations on how the Council should proceed. The Acting Chief Executive's contract will expire on 31 August 2011 so there is time for these matters to be resolved before we submit firm recommendations.
7. We feel that the Council may need to modernise the way in which it conducts its operations in the future and that it will need its own Chief Executive to do so. Bearing in mind that a joint post is unlikely to be achievable, we are restricting our recommendations to one of not pursuing that option.
8. In accordance with Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Council Procedure Rule 3.2 the Chairman has deemed this item as urgent business as this is an issue on which all members need to be aware of the latest position.
9. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.