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## **REPORT ON APPOINTING A NEW DIRECTOR OF EAST KENT SERVICES**

To: **General Purposes Committee – 23 October 2014**

By: **Monitoring Officer**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **N/A**

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**Summary:** **This report follows the resignation of the existing Director of Shared Services and requests the appointment of an interim director and permanent replacement.**

### **For Decision**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Mrs Donna Reed, the present Director of Shared Services is leaving her post on 31 October 2014.
- 1.2 Following a selection and interview process carried out by the Three Council's Chief Executive's her replacement has been designated. It is Dominic Whelan, who is not available to take up his post until later this year without a specified date.
- 1.3 To ensure there is no lapse in the discharge of the functions delegated to the director it is necessary to appoint an interim director to discharge those functions in the meantime.
- 1.4 Thanet District Council is the Host Authority for East Kent Services and as such is required to appoint Chief Officers in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Officer Employment Rules.
- 1.5 As a result of the impending departure Thanet DC will make their Director of Corporate Resources (and section 151 Officer) Paul Cook available to perform the role on an interim basis. The Committee is required to appoint Mr Cook to the interim role and authorise him to discharge the functions previously discharged by Mrs Reed.
- 1.6 The Committee is also required to confirm the appointment of Mr Whelan to the role of Director of Shared Services.
- 1.7 Once Mr Whelan takes up his post it is intended that the function will then be undertaken by him.
- 1.8 East Kent Joint Arrangement Committee will make appropriate delegations to the role to be exercised by the appointed parties following their appointment by Thanet DC.

#### **2.0 Options available with reasons for suitability**

2.1 Members should confirm these appointments as selection involving all three authorities has taken place. Members can decline to make these appointments but in doing so will require the other participating councils to reconsider their approach to joint working as the operation of East Kent Services would be called into question. There may also be financial implications as well.

### **3.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **3.1 Financial and Risk**

3.1.1 The issues raised do not cause any problem and provided for within existing budgets provided appointments are confirmed.

3.1.2 This report follows logically from the resignation of the current Director of Shared Services and if East Kent Services is to continue on the same basis the recommendations should be approved in order to ensure continuity of service.

#### **4.2 Legal**

4.2.1 The failure to confirm these appointments using our procedures would undermine the operations of East Kent Services and could result in the Council being liable to the other partners.

#### **4.3 Corporate**

4.3.1 These decisions must be taken in accordance with our own procedures as Thanet DC is the lead authority for shared services.

#### **4.4 Equity and Equalities**

4.4.1 There are no direct equity or equalities issues arising from this report.

### **5.0 Recommendations**

5.1 That as from 1 November 2014 Paul Cook, be appointed interim Director of Shared Services to exercise the functions ascribed to the Director until such time as the permanent appointment of Dominic Whelan takes effect.

5.2 That Dominic Whelan, be appointed Director of Shared services to exercise the functions ascribed to ascribed to the Director.

### **6.0 Decision Making Process**

6.1 The General Purposes Committee has the power to make Chief Officer appointments and exercise this duty on behalf of the Council.

Contact Officer:	Steven Boyle, Interim Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer, Acting Chief Executive

#### **Annex List**

Annex 1	None
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***Background Papers***

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
N/A	

***Corporate Consultation Undertaken***

Finance	Paul Cook, Interim Deputy Section 151 Officer and Director of Corporate Resources
Legal	N/A