

Governance Committee: Change of Select Committee name and amendment to Standing Orders re Senior Officer Appointments

Change of name of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee

- 1** The Environmental and Community Services Select Committee (ECSSC) has been looking at the governance arrangements of the Fire and Rescue Service (F&RS). The F&RS faces a number of new challenges including:
 - The legal duty to collaborate, under the Policing and Crime Act 2017;
 - Inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue;
 - The Home Office reform agenda;
 - Local implications of significant events, including recent terrorist incidents and the Grenfell fire; and
 - The Police and Crime Commissioner's business case for F&RS governance which will be reviewed in two years;

- 2** In the light of these challenges the Authority is looking to strengthen its governance arrangements for its Fire and Rescue service. ECSSC has considered how it can bolster its engagement with the F&RS in the areas of policy development, performance management and decision preview. In order to reinforce the enhanced role, and make the role of the Committee clearer to residents, the Governance Committee has supported a proposal from the Select Committee that its name should be changed and has recommended it should be the 'Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee'.

Recommended

- (1) That the name of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee be changed to the 'Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee and that the Constitution be amended accordingly; and

Changes to Standing Orders – Senior Appointments

Background

- 3** In accordance with The Local Authorities Standing Orders (England) Regulations 2001 the County Council provides in its Standing Orders for arrangements for the appointment of senior officers including the Chief Executive and those officers reporting to the Chief Executive. The requirement within the regulations is that the arrangements provide for a panel of elected members or officers to deal with the appointment of these members of staff, the rationale being that such appointments should not be decided by the Head of the Paid Service without certain checks and balances being in place.

Governance: Item 10

- 4 Standing Order 44 provides for an Appointing Committee of members, chaired by the County Chairman, to act in the appointment of a Chief Executive and any officer reporting to the Chief Executive. This covers the Council's most senior officers (currently Executive Directors) but recently the range of officers reporting to the Chief Executive has grown and includes certain posts at lower tiers within the officer hierarchy. Officers who report to the Chief Executive, in addition to the three Executive Directors, are:
- The Director of Law and Assurance (monitoring officer)
 - The Director of Finance, Performance and Procurement (s.151 officer)
 - The Director of Public Health
 - The Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development
 - The Head of Policy
 - The Head of Communications
 - The Chief Executive's Executive Support Officer

Proposal

- 5 No change is proposed for the arrangement for an Appointing Committee to deal with the appointment of Executive Directors. Nor will there be any change to the need for full Council to approve the allocation of the posts of Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer who both report to the Chief Executive but are accountable to full Council.
- 6 In relation to the Directors who report to the Chief Executive, it is proposed that the appointment is made by a panel of senior officers including the involvement of the relevant Cabinet Member to the extent agreed with the Cabinet Member and the Leader but that such appointments would not include an Appointing Committee.
- 7 In relation to the three less senior roles which report to the Chief Executive it is proposed that these are dealt with as officer appointments in line with other officer appointments at those levels. Accordingly it is proposed that Standing Order 44 is amended to refer only to the use of an Appointing Committee for Executive Directors and Chief Executive.

Recommended

- (2) That Standing Order 44 be amended to refer only to the use of an Appointing Committee for Executive Directors and a Chief Executive.

Lionel Barnard

Chairman of the Governance Committee

Contact: Clare Jones 033022 22526

Background Papers: None