

Executive Member	Councillor Chris Townsend – Leader of the Council
Strategic Management Team Lead Officer	N/A
Author	Councillor Chris Townsend
Date	Council – 19 th February 2013

Subject	Appointment of Interim Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service and Electoral Registration Officer/Returning Officer
----------------	--

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to continue the appointment of Yvonne Rees as Interim Chief Executive Executive/Head of the Paid Service and Electoral Registration Officer/Returning Officer until 31st March 2014.

The Council has the authority to determine the Recommendations

1.0 BACKGROUND

Chief Executive/Head of the Paid Service

There is a statutory duty under the Local Government Act 1989 for the Council to designate one of its Officers as the Head of the Paid Service. In most (but not all) instances the Head of the Paid Service is the Chief Executive.

On 19th September 2012 the Council agreed to approve Yvonne Rees as Interim Chief Executive Executive/Head of the Paid Service and Electoral Registration Officer/Returning Officer until 31st March 2013. This was to allow the Council the time and opportunity to consider how it wishes to address the position of Chief Executive/Head of the Paid Service on a longer term basis.

On appointment Ms Rees was given the following objectives;

- To bring a visible leadership to the organisation – ensuring staff remain focussed during a period of change.
- Work with members and staff to ensure a process is in place to deliver the 2012/13 budget, this year's business plan and the work programme set out to council.
- Work with members and staff to ensure the organisation has an effective process in place to deliver the budget in 2013/14 and a sustainable Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- Work with members, staff and partners to develop a vision/future direction for Mole Valley as a place.
- Work with members and staff to develop and sustain a culture where all staff realise their potential and take responsibility for their areas of activity.
- As Chief Executive Officer to provide effective advice to the Leader and Executive on day to day issues.

She has delivered on these objectives in particular bringing visible leadership to the organisation; working with Members to deliver the 2012/13 budget with a more robust process and providing an effective process to deliver the 2013/14 budget; working with Members and staff to develop and sustain a culture where staff realise their potential and take responsibility for their work areas; and providing

effective advice to the Leader and the Executive.

The Council has a number of important decisions to be taken in the forthcoming year or two to enable it to deliver its priority themes of Access to Services, Environment and Value for Money. These include the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy; the reletting of the tender for the management of Dorking Sports Centre; the future of the Pippbrook Offices; the future of the Leatherhead by pass site; the move of the Council Depot to Leatherhead; and the development of the new Local Plan, review of the green belt boundaries and land allocation policies.

Given these significant projects the Leader is of the view that the Council will benefit from stability and continued progress against the identified objectives. Therefore he suggests that the interim arrangements should continue but that Ms Rees will increase her time at Mole Valley to a 4 day week with one day at Surrey County Council. The Leader has discussed this with the Leader and Chief Executive at the County Council who are supportive of the proposal. He has also discussed the matter with Ms Rees who is happy with such an arrangement and has assured him that she is committed to Mole Valley.

The Leader suggests that the arrangement be extended to 31st March 2014 – this will allow the Council to make a decision during the autumn/winter of 2013/14.

2.0 CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications – As mentioned above there is a statutory duty on the Council to appointment a Head of the Paid Service.

Section 113(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a local authority to enter into an agreement with another authority for placing its staff at the disposal of the other authority, for the purposes of their functions, on such terms as shall be agreed.

Section 113(3) of the 1972 Act states that where the services of an officer are placed at the disposal of another authority, the officer shall be treated as an officer of that other authority for the purposes of any enactment relating to the discharge of local authorities' functions

Financial Implications – The 2013/14 Budget assumes a £100,000 saving from a possible restructuring of the Council's Senior Management, following the vacancies created (in the summer of 2012) in the Chief Executive and one of the Strategic Director posts. The continuation of Ms Rees' interim appointment will be contained within this reduced funding for senior management.

Risk Implications – Continuation of the arrangements ensures stability to the organisation during a period of significant work pressures.

Equalities Implications – There are no implications arising from the Equalities Act 2010.

Employment Issues – The legal implications section sets out how the employment of an officer of another authority can be used.

Sustainability Issues – None.

Consultation - The Leader of the Council consulted with the Leaders of the Opposition; Conservative Party, and the Independents and is aware of some discussion within the Groups.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.