

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Director of Legal and Democratic Services

to
Council
on
20 July 2017

Report prepared by: John Williams
Director of Legal & Democratic Services

Changes to the Constitution

Part 1 - Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

For the Council to agree minor changes to the Constitution in relation to the Chief Officer post of Deputy Director of Public Health (Improvement) in order to reflect a restructuring of the Council's Public Health senior management team, following a recent review.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Chief Officer post of Deputy Director of Public Health (Improvement) be deleted and that a new fourth tier post of Consultant in Public Health be established.
- 2.2 That consequential amendments be made to the following parts of the Constitution as set out in **Appendix 1**:
 - Part 3 Schedule 3 - Delegations to Officers
 - Part 4(b) – Officer Employment Procedure Rules
 - Part 7 – Composition of the Council and Management Structure

3. Background

- 3.1 The reforms contained within the Health & Social Care Act 2012 returned a leading public health role to local government. In April 2013, unitary and upper tier councils took responsibility for the local public health function. This included the transfer of public health staff from the NHS, the responsibility for commissioning or providing a number of mandated and non-mandated public health services, along with a ring fenced public health grant.
- 3.2 For ease of transition, the transfer of the public health team to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council from NHS South-East Essex Primary Care Trust was a 'lift and shift'. The team was initially based in the Department of the Chief Executive.

- 3.3 At the time of transfer, the Public Health Senior Management Team included the Director of Public Health and Deputy Director of Public Health. As senior officers of the Council, the Director and Deputy Director of Public Health were both members of the Senior Leadership Team along with the Corporate Directors and Heads of Service.
- 3.4 In June and September 2016 Cabinet considered and supported recommendations by the Chief Executive to amend the Senior Management and Departmental arrangements of the Council. These proposals included a review and redesign of the public health function to reflect the recommendations of the 2015 Peer Review of Public Health.

Council endorsed the proposals at its meetings on 21 July, 20 October and 15 December 2016, including the transfer of the public health function into the Department for People; with the public health commissioning and knowledge and intelligence functions transferring to the integrated commissioning team and data and intelligence team respectively.

- 3.5 At the time of the implementation of the new public health structure, referred to above, the Deputy Director of Public Health (Improvement) post became vacant. This has provided an opportunity to review the senior management structure within the core Public Health team.

It is proposed that the Chief Officer post of Deputy Director of Public Health (Improvement) is replaced with the post of Consultant in Public Health. This will be a fourth tier post and the change is likely to result in a modest financial saving.

- 3.6 Council is being asked to endorse this change to the Council's Senior Management arrangements and to agree consequential changes required to the Constitution as set out in recommendation 2.2 and **Appendix 1**.

4. Background Papers

None

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed changes to the Constitution