

COUNCIL
12 MAY 2016

CONSTITUTIONAL, STRUCTURAL AND OTHER MATTERS

(a) Temporary amendment to the Council's Financial Regulations

Recommendation

1. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Chief Financial Officer recommend that a temporary amendment to the Council's Financial Regulations to allow the Directorates' 2% carry forward limit for earmarked reserves to be relaxed for 2016/17 and 2017/18 be approved.

2. Officers have worked hard in 2015/16 to balance the need to consistently improve on the outcomes that the Council deliver whilst managing within their cash limited budgets. Whilst financial performance for 2015/16 confirms that budgets will breakeven, this has been achieved through the use of existing flexibility to manage cost pressures arising. However looking forward there is need to identify and deliver £80 million of income generation, efficiencies or budget reductions over the next three years, with £34 million relating to next financial year alone as the pattern of Central Government funding reductions is front loaded for 2017/18.

3. In view of the size of the financial challenge in 2017/18 the Chief Financial Officer has confirmed that the Financial Regulations limiting Directorates to carry forward up to 2% of their budgets to support between year flexibility will need be relaxed over the next two financial years and will be re-established at the 2% limit from 2018/19 onwards.

4. As members will be aware, Regulation 28 of the Financial Regulations sets out the 2% limit, and consequently there is a recommendation to amend the Constitution accordingly to facilitate this variation.

(b) Structure of the Council's Directorates

Recommendation

5. The Chief Executive recommends that the current DASH Directorate be divided into the Directorate of Adult Services and Health and the Directorate of Public Health as set out in this report with effect from 1 July 2016, and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to update the constitution accordingly.

6. When the previous Director of Adult Services and Health left the Council in February 2016, the statutory role of Director of Public Health (DPH) and its associated responsibilities were removed by the Appointments etc Panel from within the job specification for the 'Director of Adult Services and Health' post and a new reporting line

established directly to the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive now proposes that this separation of the statutory roles of Director of Adult Services and Director of Public Health is carried forward into the Council's organisational structure, with the current Directorate of Adult Services and Health dividing to become the Directorate of Adult Services and the Directorate of Public Health with effect from 1 July 2016. The DPH role will be at Head of Service level and the proposal will therefore not lead to an additional Chief Officer post.

7. This proposed separation would encourage a more Council-wide ambition for public health with a focused approach, to ensure a greater positive impact on the population of Worcestershire both young and old and across other services and outcomes within and outside social care. This builds on staff feedback which articulated a greater opportunity for this impact operating across the Council, outside a specific Directorate. Working closely with health organisations in Worcestershire will remain of vital importance to the Council and this joint working will continue to feature as a responsibility in all parts of the Council.

8. In addition to the Council's Public Health functions, 2 'additional' elements are currently also managed by the DPH – Emergency Planning and Community Safety. It is proposed that these services also transfer to the Directorate of Public Health for management and service continuity.

(c) Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of member bodies

Recommendation

9. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that the constitutional appointments as set out in the Appendix to this report (to follow) be confirmed.

10. The Council receive regular reports on appointments which need to be made to various chairmanships and vice-chairmanships. The nominations for a number of appointments are set out in the Appendix to this report (to follow).

(d) Council Meeting Dates for 2017

Recommendation

11. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommends that the Council approves its programme of meetings for 2017 as follows:

**12 January 2017
9 February 2017
25 May 2017.**

12. County Council meeting dates are currently scheduled up to November 2016. To enable the 2017 meetings programme to be produced and help members plan their commitments, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services suggests that further meetings of the Council be now scheduled for 2017 as far as the Annual meeting in 2017 immediately following the County Council elections. In accordance with the usual

practice and pattern of meetings, further meetings (Cabinet, Committees and Panels) will be arranged and members notified in due course.

13. Members may wish to note that the remaining Council meetings for 2016 are scheduled for:

14 July 2016
15 September 2016, and
10 November 2016.

Contact Points

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In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.