

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Special Governance and Audit Committee held in the Ancholme Meeting Room at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Thursday 3 November 2011 commencing at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillor Anne Welburn (in the Chair)

Councillor Ken Bridger
Councillor Jackie Brockway
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Malcolm Leaning
Councillor William Parry
Councillor Di Rodgers
Councillor Ray Sellars

In Attendance: Director of Neighbourhoods and Health
Democratic Services Team Leader

Also present: Councillor Geoff Wiseman

Apologies: Councillor Sue Rawlins
Mrs A Adams

39 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

40 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

41 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Health presented the report which sought approval of changes to the Constitution arising from the decisions made by the Chief Officer Employment Committee in terms of the retirement of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Health and subsequent changes to the management structure.

The changes were merely technicalities to reflect new post titles and roles, and to establish the ownership of statutory functions. Certain delegations within the Proper Officer roles required changes to ensure proper processes were followed in the course of the Council's business.

In summary, the post of Director of Neighbourhoods and Health was being removed from the structure, a new post of Director of Regeneration and Planning had been created and was currently undergoing the recruitment process. The Director of Strategy and Regeneration post was to be renamed Director of Localism and Communities and was to take on some of the functions of the Neighbourhoods and Health post. The Chief Executive was to be designated as the Electoral Registration Officer and the Returning Officer.

The new post of Director of Regeneration and Planning would have responsibility for Technical and Contracts, Planning and Development, Regeneration, Housing Renewal and Community Safety. The Director of Localism and Communities would take responsibility for Public Protection and Operational services.

A structure chart was appended to the report showing the new Director posts, the appointment to which was ring fenced to four Service Managers. Following that appointment further work would need to be done to address the remit of the remaining Service Managers, for which a report would be submitted to Council, as further amendments would be required to the Constitution.

Members had concerns and asked questions about the process of the change of structure and the appointment of a new Director, but assurance was given that due consideration had been given to all aspects of the project by the Chief Officer Employment Committee. The Governance and Audit Committee was concerned that an appointment be made on ability to undertake the role and that this decision not be rushed because of time constraints.

Further discussion then took place on the level and scope of delegated decisions and the method of communicating these to Members. It was agreed that this was something that could be added into the Work Plan for the Governance and Audit Committee to consider in the future. Any Members with specific concerns to supply examples.

It was reiterated that the purpose of the report before the committee was simply to address those changes that needed making to the Constitution

RESOLVED that:

- a) it be recommended to Council that approval be given to amendments to the Constitution as detailed in the report and that the changes come into effect on 1 December 2011, by which time a Director of Regeneration and Planning will have been appointed;
- b) the matter of delegated decisions be added to the Work Plan for consideration by the Governance and Audit Committee.

The meeting concluded at 7.05 pm.

Chairman