

**COUNCIL
2 MARCH 2005**

**APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE:
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
(Chief Executive)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 15 February 2005, the Executive authorised the Chief Executive with the Directors of Education & Libraries and Social Services and Housing to lead an initial consultation exercise designed to develop outline proposals for the creation of a Children's Services Department on 1 May 2005. The Executive will further consider the proposals and the overall route-map for more in depth integration of children's functions at its meeting on 19 April.
- 1.2 This report invites the Council to make arrangements for the internal appointment of a Director of Children's Services following the next meeting of the Executive. Formal dates will be agreed with the Committee but the provisional timetable indicates that this will need to happen towards the end of April, in preparation for the formal creation of the new department from 1 May.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Council determine in accordance with Part 4.8 of the Council's Constitution (Officer Employment Procedure Rules) that the appointment of a Director of Children's Services be made from the Council's existing staff; and**
- 2.2 **That a committee of seven members (6:1 – with up to 2 substitute members per group) be established to interview the selected candidates and make a final appointment to the post of Director of Children's Services.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The following requirements apply:
- Unless otherwise directed by the Council, a committee or sub committee will appoint chief officers [*Paragraph 4 of Part 4.8 of the Council's Constitution (Officer Employment Procedure Rules)*]
 - A committee or sub committee appointing a chief officer or deputy chief officer must include at least one member of the Executive [*Paragraph 4 of Part II of Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities (Standing Order) Regulations 2001*]
 - Such a committee is subject to the political balance provisions [*Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989*].
- 3.2 It is considered that the Committee should comprise seven members and in order to reflect the political balance on the Council, six of these members would be from the Conservative Group, with the remaining Member from the Labour Group. Accordingly, nominations have been sought from the Group Leaders. The nominations will be announced at the Council meeting.
- 3.3 Statutory Guidance sets out the role of the Director of Children's Services, which is to discharge the following children's services functions:-

- i. Education except for further higher and adult education.
- ii. Social Services as they relate to the provision of children's services.
- iii. Health Services particularly under Health Act partnerships as they relate to children and young people.
- iv. Inter-agency co-operation including the Section 10 duty to make and sustain arrangements to promote co-operation between the Authority and partners to improve children's well-being.
- v. Discharge the need to safeguard and promote children's welfare generally.
- vi. Establish, maintain and operate a database of basic information on all children in the local authority area or participate in such a scheme if the Secretary of State vests the responsibility for maintaining databases in another agency.
- vii. Establish and run the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, ensuring board Members effective participation.
- viii. Prepare and publish a Children's Plan.
- ix. Co-ordinate a joint statement of actions stemming from the joint area review report on Children's Services.

4. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Finance Officer

- 4.1 The Borough Finance Officer has nothing to add to this report.

Borough Solicitor

- 4.2 Until S18 and Schedule 2 of the Children Act 2004 are brought into force, the Council has to retain the statutory post of the Director of Social Services. The DfES draft guidance indicates that this might occur in April 2005; however, this time line has not yet been confirmed.

Access Implications

- 4.3 There are no access implications arising from the recommendation in the report.

Background Papers

None

Contacts for further information

Timothy Wheadon, Chief Executive (01344) 355609
timothy.wheadon@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Tony Madden, Borough Human Resources Manager (01344) 352049
tony.madden@bracknell-forest.gov.uk