

Article 9 – Chief Officers

9.01 Management Structure

(a) **General.** The Council may engage such staff (referred to as officers) as it considers necessary to carry out its functions.

(b) **Chief Officers.** The Council will engage persons for the following posts, who will be designated chief officers:

Chief Executive
Chief Operating Officer
Strategic Director for Communities
Strategic Director for Growth and Environment
Assurance Director
Adults and Communities Director
Director of Public Health (Public Health Lead Commissioner)

The Assurance Director will have reserve powers to exercise all or any of the powers delegated to the Head of Legal or the Head of Governance under the Constitution, together with the following statutory officer powers:

- Members' declarations of acceptance of office
- Members' notice of resignation
- Giving notice of casual vacancies
- Convening Council to fill Mayoral casual vacancy
- Signing summonses for council meetings and receiving notices as to Members' addresses for summonses
- Receiving notification of political groups for the calculation of political balance
- Returning Officer for election of parent governor representatives to Committee
- Deposit of documents
- Certification and authentication of documents, byelaws and copy minutes and signing of other relevant formal notices and documents.

(c) Statutory Officers

The Council will designate the following posts as shown:

Post	Statutory Designation
Chief Executive	Head of Paid Service (works with Members and the Strategic Commissioning Board to deliver the council's themes)
Assurance Director	Monitoring Officer
Chief Operating Officer	Chief Finance Officer Section 151 Officer

Strategic Director for Communities	Director of Children's Services
Adults and Communities Director	Director for Adult Social Services
Deputy Chief Operating Officer	Deputy Section 151 Officer
Public Health Lead Commissioner	Director of Public Health

Such posts will have the functions described in Article 11.02-11.06 below.

9.02 Functions of Head of Paid Service

- (a) **Discharge of functions by the Council.** The Head of Paid Service will report to full Council on the manner in which the discharge of the Council's functions is co-ordinated, the number and grade of officers required for the discharge of functions and the organisation of officers.
- (b) **Restriction of functions.** The Head of Paid Service may not be the Monitoring Officer but may hold the post of Chief Finance Officer if a qualified accountant.
References:
Section 4 and 5, Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- (c) The Head of Paid Service has authority over all other chief officers so far as is necessary for efficient management and for carrying out the Council's functions.

9.03 Functions of the Monitoring Officer

- (a) **Maintaining the Constitution.** The Monitoring Officer will maintain an up-to-date version of the Constitution and will ensure that it is available for consultation by Members, staff and the public.
- (b) **Ensuring lawfulness and fairness of decision-making.** After consulting with the Head of Paid Service and Chief Operating Officer, the Monitoring Officer will report to the full council if s/he considers that any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to unlawfulness or if any decision or omission would give rise to maladministration. Such a report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until the report has been considered.
- (c) **Supporting the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee.** The Monitoring Officer will contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through provision of support to the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee.
- (d) **Conducting investigations.** The Monitoring Officer will conduct or appoint Officers or others to conduct investigations into allegations of breach of the

Member Code of Conduct. Then s/he or they will make reports and recommendations in respect of such allegations to the Group Leaders Panel.

- (g) **Contributing to corporate management.** The Monitoring Officer will contribute to the corporate management of the council, in particular through the provision of legal advice and advice on probity and good administration.
- (h) **Providing advice.** The Monitoring Officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all councillors.
- (i) **Restrictions on posts.** The Monitoring Officer cannot be the Chief Finance Officer or the Head of Paid Service.
- (j) **Register of Members Interests.** The Monitoring Officer will keep and maintain the Register of Members Interests and ensure its availability to the public.

9.04 Functions of the Chief Finance Officer

- (a) **Ensuring lawfulness and financial prudence of decision-making.** After consulting with the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Finance Officer will report to the full Council and the council's external auditor if he or she considers that any proposal, decision or course of action will involve incurring unlawful expenditure, or is unlawful and is likely to cause a loss or deficiency or if the council is about to enter an item of account unlawfully.
- (b) **Estimates and resources.** In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 to advise on robustness of estimates and level of resources.
- (c) **Administration of financial affairs.** The Chief Finance Officer will have responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the council.
- (d) **Contributing to corporate management.** The Chief Finance Officer will contribute to the corporate management of the council, in particular through the provision of professional financial advice.
- (e) **Providing advice.** The Chief Finance Officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all councillors and will support and advise councillors and officers in their respective roles.
- (f) **Give financial information.** The Chief Finance Officer will provide financial information to the media, members of the public and the community.

9.05 Functions of the Director of Children's Services

- (a) The Council as a children's services authority is required by the Children Act 2004 to appoint an officer to be known as the Director of Children's Services.
- (b) The Director of Children's Services is responsible for the delivery of the Council's education and social services functions for children, and any health functions for children delegated to the Council by an NHS body.

9.06 Functions of the Director of Adult Social Services

- (a) The Adults and Communities Director will fulfil the role of the Director for Adult Social Services as required by the Local Authority Health Social Services Act 1970, as amended by the Children Act 2004
- (b) The Adults and Communities Director is responsible for the delivery of the Council's social services functions, other than those for which the Council's Director of Children's Services is responsible under the Children Act 2004.

9.07 Functions of the Director of Public Health (DPH)

- (a) The DPH is responsible for writing the Annual Report on the health of the local population
- b) The DPH is responsible for all of the local authority's duties to take steps to improve public health.
- c) The DPH is responsible for exercising the local authority's functions in planning for, and responding to, emergencies that present a risk to public health
- d) The DPH is responsible for exercising the local authority's role in co-operating with the Police, the Probation Service and the Prison Service to assess the risks posed by violent or sexual offenders
- e) The DPH is responsible for the local authority's public health response as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003, such as making representations about licensing applications
- f) The DPH is responsible for exercising the local authority's duties to ensure plans are in place to protect their population including through screening and immunisation.

9.08 Duty to provide sufficient resources to the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer

The Council will provide the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer with such officers, accommodation and other resources as are in their opinion sufficient to allow their duties to be performed.

9.09 Conduct

Officers will comply with the Officers' Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Officer/Member Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

9.10 Employment

The recruitment, selection and dismissal of officers will comply with the Officer Employment Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.