

Council: Tuesday, 4 November 2014

11.1 - Report from Policy and Resources Committee – 14 October 2014 - Annual Council – External Investigation

Amendment in the name of Councillor Alison Moore

1. Add at end of recommendation 1:

- except signing the side agreement, until legal services are brought back in house.

2. Add recommendation 2.1:

- that the vacant Monitoring Officer post must be filled by a legally qualified person, and this must be specified in the job description and job advert.

3. Delete recommendation 3 and replace with:

- that legal services are brought back in-house to be part of the integrated Assurance function.

4. Add to recommendation 5 at the end:

- including that a limited scope of high level corporate legal support is removed from the scope of the IAA and is instead provided in-house and/or through separate external arrangements pending legal services being brought back in-house.

5. Add recommendation 6:

-that a review of all decisions taken by LB Barnet since Barnet ceased to have a legally qualified Monitoring Officer is undertaken, with the support of external legal advice.

Substantive recommendations to read:

1. That the recommendations set out in section 6 of appendix 1, **except signing the side agreement, are agreed until legal services are brought back in house.**

2. That the Council retains its own Monitoring Officer, and

2.1 That the vacant Monitoring Officer post must be filled by a legally qualified person, and this must be specified in the job description and job advert.

3. That legal services are brought back in-house to be part of the integrated Assurance function.

4. That the Council's integrated Assurance function is retained.

5. That the outcome of negotiation with Harrow Council in respect of these matters is reported to this committee in due course, along with detailed proposals for amendments to the Shared Legal Service Inter-Authority Agreement, **including that a limited scope of high level corporate legal support is removed from the scope of the IAA and is instead provided in-house and/or through separate external arrangements pending legal services being brought back in-house.**

6. That a review of all decisions taken by LB Barnet since Barnet ceased to have a legally qualified Monitoring Officer is undertaken, with the support of external legal advice.