

Item 7 (a) – The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2015 – Dismissal of Statutory Officers

The attached report was considered by the Governance Committee, relevant minute extract below:

Governance Committee – 13 July 2015 (Minute 6)

The Chief Officer Legal & Governance introduced a report which advised that, due to recent legislative changes, the Council was required to amend its standing orders with regard to the dismissal of its Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Section 151 Officer (the statutory officers) no later than the first ordinary meeting of the Council falling after 11 May 2015.

The Chief Officer Legal & Governance advised that previously disciplinary action had to be in accordance with a report of a designated independent person, who had to be appointed jointly by the Council and the statutory officer. This joint appointment process could cause delays. There was now instead to be a panel appointed which would include the two independent persons appointed for the Member Conduct regime.

In response to questions the Officer confirmed that there was no limit to the number of further appointments which could be made to the panel which could also include Members or non-Members. Any Members would have to be appointed on a politically proportional basis. Further clarification on how the panels would work in practice was expected in any future guidance published by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: **That Council be recommended** to approve the amendments to Officer Employment Procedure Rules (Appendix M of the Constitution) and paragraph 6 of the Constitution entitled “Functions of the Full Council” within Part 2 – The Council and District Council Members, in relation to the dismissal of statutory officers, attached as an appendix to the report.