

COUNCIL – 18 OCTOBER 2011

APPOINTMENTS TO THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY NETWORK FOR COUNCILLORS

Report of the: Director of Finance and Corporate Resources

Status: For Decision

This report supports the Key Aim of the effective management of Council resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. P. Fleming

Head of Service Mrs Christine Nuttall - Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Recommendation:

(1) That Councillors Mrs Stack and Raikes be appointed to serve on the Local Democracy and Accountability Network for Councillors for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

(2) That appointments to the Local Democracy and Accountability Network for Officers be made at the discretion of the Chief Executive.

Introduction and Background

1. The Council has been approached by South East Employers to see whether Sevenoaks wishes to appoint two Members to serve on the new Local Democracy and Accountability Network for Councillors.
2. There will also be a new network for Officers and it is suggested that appointments to the Officer Network should be made at the discretion of the Chief Executive.
3. The two new networks replace the former Democratic Services Officers Network and the Joint Scrutiny Network.
4. The draft terms of reference for the new Councillor and Officer Networks are attached at Appendix A.

Appointing Council Representatives to the Local Democracy and Accountability Network

5. The Leader of the Council has been approached and has nominated Councillors Mrs Stack and Raikes to serve on the Local Democracy and Accountability Network for Councillors for the remainder of the Municipal Year. The Council is asked to approve the nominations.

Key Implications

Financial

6. None.

Community Impact and Outcomes

7. None.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

8. None

Value For Money and Asset Management

9. None

Conclusions

10. The Council is asked to agree to the appointment of Councillors Mrs Stack and Raikes to serve on the Local Democracy and Accountability Network for Councillors for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Sources of Information: Draft Terms of Reference for the Local Democracy and Accountability Network

Contact Officer(s): Alan Twyman – Democratic Services Manager
Ext. 7247

Dr Pav Ramewal

**Deputy Chief Executive and
Director of Corporate
Resources**



Draft Terms of Reference for the Local Democracy and Accountability Network

Our current Democratic Services Officers Network and the Joint Scrutiny Network are changing. From mid 2011, there will be a Local Democracy and Accountability Network for Officers and a Local Democracy and Accountability Network for Councillors.

Aims and Objectives

Both Councillor and Officer networks will meet to consider key localist issues affecting local authorities in the south east region, for example, the Localism Bill, new governance arrangements, opportunities for shared services, and Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Networks will give particular attention to those issues which may impact on engagement and transparency, and their impact on governance arrangements, with regard to both the relationship between the local council and the community it represents, and the relationship between the executive and non-executive within the council.

Network meetings will comprise presentations from guest speakers, the sharing of innovative ideas and good practice from around the region, networking opportunities with peers, and a Continuing Professional Development session – a practical “workshop” session aimed at developing specific skills. The meetings will be underpinned by facilitated discussion.

Representatives

Every local authority in membership of South East Employers will be invited to nominate two people to each network. *For the Councillor Network, all elected members are welcome, but it may be of particular interest to Chairs of Scrutiny Committees, Executive Members and Backbench Members. For the Officer Network, again, all officers welcome, but in particular those officers based in Democratic Services and/ or Scrutiny, and Policy Development.*

Meetings

Meetings are biannual for both networks – approximately March and September. Attendance at these networks is free of charge to SEE member authorities. If the representatives cannot attend, we welcome substitute nominations. If you do not cancel your place, non-attendance on the day will incur a charge of £50 per delegate to cover costs.

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

- There will be a Chair and Vice Chair appointed to each network.
- A Chair and Vice Chair will be nominated by network members.
- The Chair and Vice Chair will serve for a two year period of office.
- The Chair and Vice Chair will oversee the network meetings, assist SEE formulating the agenda for each meeting, and maintain regular contact with SEE between meetings.

Submission of business

Network members may put forward matters for inclusion, by:

- emailing the contacts below, or
- including suggestions on the evaluation form provided at the end of each meeting.

Contacts

Helen Looker, Business Support and Communications Assistant - helen@seemp.co.uk

Susie Bonfield, Policy Officer, Democracy and Governance – susie@seemp.co.uk

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