



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DISTRICT COUNCILS' NETWORK
REPORT OF GROUP LEADERS (LIBERAL DEMOCRAT/
CONSERVATIVE) AND CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement from Council for a six month shared management of the Chief Executive with the District Councils' Network (DCN) – April to September 2015. The Mayor has agreed to this report being presented as a late urgent item, as the position was not known at the time the agenda was circulated.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Council endorse an arrangement for sharing the time of the Chief Executive with the District Councils' Network for the period April to September 2015, with proportional salary costs being recompensed to the Council by the DCN.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 As many Members will be aware, the Chief Executive has played a major role within the District Councils' Network over the past six years, being Chairman of the Chief Executives' Group for two years and Secretary for the other four years. The Council has gained benefit from this input in terms of information flows and influence on lobbying to Government and others. The DCN has a membership of 200 of the 201 District Councils in England.
- 3.2 The DCN has recently restructured how it is managed and how it operates, with a part of DCN Director being introduced to manage the work, based mainly at the LGA offices in Westminster.
- 3.3 With a General Election in less than two months' time, this will be a critical time for local government, particularly District Councils, and it is imperative that the DCN stakes an early and well-evidenced claim for attention to its priorities for Districts. It is imperative, therefore, that the new Director is able to hit the ground running.
- 3.4 Arising from the his existing engagement with the DCN, the Chief Executive has been asked to work in the role of DCN Director for an average of 2.5 days a week (flexibly, depending on the issues of the day) for a period of six months, to enable the DCN to maximise its impact over this critical period. The DCN will reimburse the Council the equivalent basic salary costs for the Chief Executive over this period, based on a 50:50 split.

3.5 The Chief Executive will continue to be employed by the Council and has given a commitment to being available for staff/Members and for all formal meetings he would normally attend (Council, Executive and Scrutiny Commission), as well as involvement with relevant induction/training sessions for Members of the new Council. He will fully honour his commitments as the (Acting) Returning Officer for the local and general elections on 7 May. The two Deputy Chief Executives for Corporate and Community Direction will continue to be available to act on behalf of the Chief Executive in matters of urgency.

3.6 We consider that this arrangement will reflect very favourably on the Council, in supporting our national representative body, as well as generating income for a short period. It will be a new variation on the increasing trend for shared Chief Executives and we commend it to the Council

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [IB]

4.1 If endorsed, the estimated saving/income will be £34,178. This equates to a 38.94% of the current salary related cost for 6 months.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [EH]

5.1 The Chief Executive will need to ensure that specific written delegations, signed by him giving relevant powers, to the two Deputy Chief Executives are in place to enable them to act in his absence.

5.2 A formal agreement with the “employing body” (currently Tandridge District Council) for the DCN will need to be put in place to secure the terms and conditions of the provision of the Chief Executives services to the DCN. The DCN is not a legal entity in its own right therefore the agreement will need to be with that employing authority.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This would comply with the aim of ‘Providing Value for Money and Pro-Active Services’

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation has taken place with the co-signatories of this paper, to ensure cross-party support for the initiative

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

8.3 The following significant risks associated with this report/these decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
That the Council does not secure value for money and/or effective senior officer leadership and coordination	That the Chief Executive provides regular evidence of the effective senior officer management to the Leader of the Council and the Cross Party Group of senior Members	Chief Executive
The reputation of the Council will be enhanced by its most senior officer providing support and management to the national representative body for District Councils over an important and uncertain period, whilst continuing to provide strategic management to the Council at officer level and maintain effective member-officer relations	That the DCN reflects the Council's contribution to their national work and enables the most effective balance of the workloads and timing for the benefit of the Council and the DCN	Chairman of DCN

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Approval of this arrangement will facilitate the Council's engagement in and learning from a wider base of experience and activity across the country, to enable further improvements in how we interface with and support those who are more vulnerable and those who live and work in rural communities.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background Papers: None

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