

# Agenda Item 53.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Appointment of Statutory Scrutiny Officer</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Council on 19 November 2015
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

That the Council fulfills its obligations under the Localism Act 2011 and designates an Officer to act as the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That

- 1) Neil Carr, Principal Democratic Services Officer, be designated as the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer; and
- 2) Section 6.3.37 of the Council's Constitution be amended as set out in the report.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Section 9FB of the Localism Act 2011 places a duty on County and Unitary Councils to designate an Officer to act as the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer. Kevin Jacob, the previous Statutory Scrutiny Officer has now left the Council therefore there is a need to appoint another Officer to undertake this role.

## Background

In line with Section 9FB of the Localism Act 2011 County and Unitary Authorities are required to designate an Officer to undertake the following statutory functions:

- Promote the role of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- Provide support to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the members of those bodies;
- Provide support and guidance to Members and Officers of the Council and the Executive on the functions of its Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer cannot be the Council's Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), Chief Finance Officer or Monitoring Officer.

It is recommended that Neil Carr, Principal Democratic Services Officer, who is the Council's lead Scrutiny Officer be appointed as the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

Originally introduced by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the requirement for Councils to appoint a Statutory Scrutiny Officer can now be found at Section 9FB of the Localism Act 2011. It is therefore proposed that Rule 6.3.37 of the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect this and the appointment as follows:

### **"6.3.37 Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

~~Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 County and Unitary Authorities have, by 1 April 2010,~~ **Localism Act 2011 the Council is required** ~~an obligation~~ to designate an Officer to undertake the following statutory functions:

- a) Promote the role of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- b) Provide support to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the members of those bodies;
- c) Provide support and guidance to Members and Officers of the Council and the Executive on the functions of its Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer is:

~~Kevin Jacob~~ **Neil Carr**

Principal Democratic Services Officer

Wokingham Borough Council.

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## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

***The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

<b>Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision</b>
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There are no financial implications associated with this report.
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<b>Cross-Council Implications</b>
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N/A
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<b>List of Background Papers</b>
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Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 Localism Act 2011 Council's Constitution
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