



DEPUTY PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask Council to consider the appointment of a Deputy Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning to support the Deputy Leader in his capacity as Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning.

2 LINKS TO COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Place and Environment.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

- (1) That the role of Deputy Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, as detailed in Appendix 1, be agreed.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader, to make any necessary changes to the Constitution to give effect to the appointment of a Deputy Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning.
- (3) That the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to include the role of Deputy Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning in its review of Members' Allowances.

4 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The Constitution includes provision for the Leader to appoint Portfolio Holders but is currently silent on the appointment of Deputy Portfolio Holders.

5 STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 5.1 The appointment of a Deputy will assist the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, who balances the role of Deputy Leader with a busy portfolio. Revisions to the Local Development Scheme were agreed by Council on 31 January 2024 and there is a great deal of work currently underway to ensure that the Council remains on target for submission of the final Castle Point Plan. The Government has also gone out to consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and it is clear that the workload for the Strategic Planning portfolio continues to be significant. It is anticipated that this role will be a temporary one and this will therefore be reviewed in May 2025.
- 5.2 The appointment of a Deputy Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning also provides a development opportunity for another Member of the Council.
- 5.3 If the Council decides to appoint a Deputy Portfolio Holder it would be appropriate to ask the Independent Remuneration Panel that will be conducting a review of Members' Allowances and reporting to Council with its recommendations to include this role within its review.
- 5.4 Any recommendations that the Panel might make in terms of a special responsibility allowance for the role, if agreed by Council, can be backdated to the date of appointment to the role.

6 OPTIONS

- 6.1 Option 1: Do nothing.
- 6.2 Option 2: Appoint a Deputy Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning to provide additional capacity in the busy Strategic Planning portfolio.
- 6.3 Preferred Option – Option 2

This will result in providing the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning with support and will increase the capacity of the Cabinet in the busy strategic planning portfolio at a key time when the Council is working on a challenging timescale for submission of a Castle Point Plan.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 If Council approves the new role, this will be included in a review of Members' allowances to be completed before the end of the current municipal year. This has been accounted for in the budget process for 2025/26.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are none arising from this report.

9 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none.

10 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and found there to be no impacts (either positive or negative) on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010.



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Background Papers:-

None.

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Deputy Portfolio Holder - Strategic Planning

Purpose:

- To support the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning within their portfolio.
- To take a lead on agreed projects on behalf of the Cabinet that contribute towards the overall objectives of the Strategic Planning portfolio.
- To enhance the capacity and capability of the political leadership of the Council.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- a) Provide support and assistance to the Strategic Planning portfolio.
- b) Act as a deputy for the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning on an *ad hoc* basis – attending meetings and completing tasks as requested.
- c) Provide additional capacity and leadership to support the overall portfolio, leading on designated policy areas and projects with cross-cutting impact.
- d) Take responsibility for the direction of key projects or policy areas, as requested by the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning, and report on progress.
- e) Develop a broad understanding and knowledge of the Strategic Planning portfolio.
- f) Contribute to informal Cabinet discussions, providing input and challenge that assists with effective policy development and decision making.