

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 26 June 2012

BY: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Appointment of Head of Education

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To recommend to the Council to proceed with the appointment of a Head of Education.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council rescinds the decision made at the 22nd November 2011 Council meeting to appoint a Joint Head of Education with Midlothian Council.
- 2.2 Council agrees to proceed with the appointment of a Head of Education.
- 2.3 Council endorses the decision made at 28th February 2012 Council meeting to share East Lothian Council's Executive Director (Services for People) on a fifty/ fifty basis with Midlothian Council from 1 March 2012 until the end of 2012.
- 2.4 Council agrees to continue working with Midlothian Council to explore opportunities for shared services and partnership working through the programme of work approved by the Joint Liaison Group.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 22nd November 2011 Council meeting agreed to appoint a Joint Head of Education with Midlothian Council as part of the development of a phased approach to the sharing of Education Services with Midlothian Council.
- 3.2 Subsequent to that decision the review of the Council's Chief Officer structure approved by the Council (28th February 2012) created seven Heads of Service posts. Three of these posts are within the 'People' Directorate and one of these has responsibility for Education and Schools.

- 3.3 The Council also approved the request from Midlothian Council to share East Lothian Council's Executive Director – People on a fifty/ fifty basis from 1 March until the end of 2012.
- 3.4 As was reported via an Election Recess Arrangements report (30th March 2012) following the appointment and matching process for the new Chief Officers it was decided not to appoint any candidate to the post of Head of Service with responsibility for Education with the intention that this post would be advertised and recruited following the Local Government election in May 2012.
- 3.5 Following the Council elections the new Administration has intimated its wish not to appoint a Joint Head of Education. The Administration wishes to proceed with the appointment of a Head of Education solely for East Lothian Council in order to provide a period of stability for schools and education services, to support the development of the 'Curriculum for Excellence' and drive up educational attainment.
- 3.6 A report to Council on 22nd June 2010 and subsequent update (26th October 2010) reported on the establishment of a joint (East Lothian and Midlothian) Shared Services Board and an elected members Joint Liaison Group to explore options and opportunities for sharing services and partnership working. It is proposed that the Joint Liaison Group should be re-convened with a view to continuing to explore options and developing business cases for partnership working on a case by case basis.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The report recommends the rescinding of the previous decision to appoint a joint Head of Education with Midlothian Council as part of the development of a phased approach to the sharing of Education Services with Midlothian Council. However, it endorses a subsequent decision to agree to share the Executive Director (Services for People) on a fifty/ fifty basis with Midlothian Council.
- 4.2 The report recommends that the Council continues to explore options for developing partnership working with Midlothian Council which meets the draft Council Plan 2012-2017 commitment to explore and develop joint, shared and integrated services in accordance with the principle of 'Working together to achieve shared outcomes.'

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 There is no direct impact on equalities and therefore an equalities impact assessment has not been carried out.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – There are no direct financial implications associated with the report recommendations. The costs of a full post of Head of Education were provided within the 2012-13 revenue budget in accordance with the Review of Chief Officer Structure approved by Council, 28th February 2012. However, it should be noted that within indicative financial planning figures for 2014-15, as approved by Council, 14th February 2012, the Council has targeted future savings amounting to £1m through developing shared and / or integrated services.
- 6.2 Personnel – None
- 6.3 Other – None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Shared Services Update – report to East Lothian Council, 22 June 2010
- 7.2 Shared Services: Update on Discussions with Midlothian Council – report to East Lothian Council, 26 October 2012
- 7.3 The Development of a Phased Approach to the Sharing of Education and Children’s Services with Midlothian Council – report to East Lothian Council, 22 November 2011
- 7.4 Review of Chief Officer Structure – report to East Lothian Council, 28 February 2012
- 7.5 Review of Chief Officer Structure: Update – Election recess arrangements report, 30 March 2012

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