



Meeting: Adjourned Annual Council

Date: 15 May 2013

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Shared Director of Public Health with Plymouth City Council

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Supporting Officer Contact Details: Caroline Taylor, Interim Chief Operating Officer, telephone 01803 207116; email: caroline.taylor@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose and Introduction

1.1 For the Council to approve an interim arrangement whereby the Council permits a shared appointment of its Director of Public Health with Plymouth City Council.

2. Proposed Decision

2.1 That the Council permits its Director of Public Health to be appointed on an interim basis as a shared Director of Public Health with Plymouth City Council.

2.2 That the Interim Chief Operating Officer be authorised to progress this arrangement.

2.2 Reason for Decision

Following the transfer of responsibility for the local delivery of public health to local government in April 2013 all Council's are required to appoint a Director of Public Health by virtue of the Health & Social Care Act 2012. As the proposal relates to a significant change in the span of responsibility for the Director of Public Health for Torbay, albeit on an interim basis, the approval of Full Council is required.

Supporting Information

4. Position

4.1 Officers were approached by Plymouth City Council as a result of their Director of Public Health commencing a new position. They are seeking an interim arrangement with the Council to share our Director of Public Health until they find a permanent solution to the vacancy.

- 4.2 The Department of Health Guidance as to appointing Directors of Public Health advises that in considering whether to appoint a Director of Public Health across more than one authority a number of factors should be taken into account, including:
- The size of the population
 - Existing arrangements for working on the wider footprint and its effectiveness
 - The leadership requirements for managing more than one Health and Wellbeing Board
 - The number of Committees and Strategic Partnership Groups the Director of Public Health would be required to lead, advise and attend
 - The leadership role in relation to more than one Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and overseeing its development and use
 - The ability to deliver the range of corporate responsibilities across more than one local authority area
 - The ability to build relationships and inform elected members across more than one local authority and to act as an advocate and champion of the public's health
 - The implications of the span of the role in relation to delivery of public health advice, including to NHS commissioners
 - The implications of the span of the role in relation to ensuring robust health protection arrangements
 - Other local factors which may impact upon the successful delivery of public health
- 4.3 There are potential advantages to exploring a longer term solution to the interim proposal. These include future financial savings, the availability of complementary skills in different teams and the optimal use of a scarce resource, in terms of qualified Public Health staff. Potential issues, in addition to the interim increase in work load include the variations in corporate responsibilities and reporting arrangements between the two Councils.
- 4.4 Having taken account of all of these matters into account, the Director of Public Health believes that short term support to Plymouth for an interim period will allow for the proper consideration of longer term options. Capacity in Torbay has recently been supplemented by the appointments of a new medical consultant and a health protection nurse. In addition, there is enthusiasm from within the Public Health team to consider a longer term solution.

5. Possibilities and Options

5.1 Any alternative possibilities or options will be for Plymouth City Council to explore but could include:

- Replacing the role of Director of Public Health for Plymouth with a full time individual for Plymouth;
- Entering into a longer term arrangement for a shared Director with another Council;

- Entering into a longer term arrangement for a fully shared Public Health service with another Council, to include the whole Public Health team.

6. Equal Opportunities

6.1 Not applicable

7. Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

7.1 Not applicable

8. Consultation

8.1 Not applicable

9. Risks

9.1 The risk associated with the Decision is that by sharing the position with Plymouth City Council, that this leads to some form of deterioration in the delivery of Public Health Services within Torbay.

Appendices

None

Additional Information

None