

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Full Council – 24 June 2010

Change of the Taunton Deane Borough Council Director on the Southwest One Board

Report of the Performance and Client Manager

(This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council)

1. Executive summary

<p>The purpose of the report is to recommend a change in the Authority's Director on the board of Southwest One from Councillor Simon Coles to Councillor Tony McMahon.</p>

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council entered into a contract in 2007 with Somerset County Council and IBM to form the Southwest One 'joint venture partnership' company. The Avon and Somerset Police subsequently joined the partnership in 2008.
- 2.2 Under the terms of the contract the Authority is entitled and required to nominate a Director to sit on the board of Southwest One. The intention within Taunton Deane has always been that the Director should be a Member and ideally from the ruling group.
- 2.3 The role has been filled since 2007 by Councillor Simon Coles. However, due to the recent change in leadership of the Council, it is appropriate to nominate a new Director. The purpose of this report is therefore to recommend the appointment of Councillor Tony McMahon to the Director post.

3. The process for nominating a new Director

- 3.1 The decision to change the Authority's Director needs to be taken by Full Council in its capacity as being the Taunton Deane 'Shareholder' in respect of Southwest One. The new Director will then be authorised to attend the Southwest One board.

4. The role of the Director

- 4.1 The board of Southwest One is comprised of a Director from each of the Authorities (although the Police have split their directorship between the Chief Constable and the Chair of the Police Authority), three IBM appointed directors and an independent Chairman (Sir Jay Tidmarsh).
- 4.2 The primary obligation of each of the Directors is to the Southwest One company and

specifically to ensure the smooth running of the company so as to deliver its objectives. Additionally, the Directors represent their respective shareholders. In the case of this Authority the 'Shareholder' is Full Council and, as such, any key decisions would have to be agreed by Full Council. Guidance has previously been provided to all Members regarding their roles and responsibilities whilst sitting on outside bodies and on how to handle any potential conflicts of interest.

5. Finance comments

5.1 There are no specific financial implications relating to this report.

6. Legal comments

6.1 It is vital that the Authority has a nominated Director in place at all times in order to ensure the Council is adequately represented on the Southwest One board.

7. Links to corporate aims

7.1 There are no specific links to the corporate aims.

8. Environmental and community safety implications

8.1 There are no implications for the environment or community safety.

9. Equalities impact

9.1 An impact assessment is not required in respect of this report.

10. Risk management

10.1 Failure to have a Member nominated as the Authority's Director for Southwest One would leave the Council without representation on the Southwest One board.

11. Recommendations

11.1 Members are recommended to endorse the change in the Authority's Director on the Southwest One board with immediate effect from Councillor Simon Coles to Councillor Tony McMahon.

Contact

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