

By: Peter Sass: Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Scrutiny Board – 3 November 2010

Subject: **Interim appointments - notification process**

Classification: Unrestricted

1. Background

(1) This item has been placed on the Scrutiny Board's agenda at the request of Mrs Dean. It relates to the process for notification to the Scrutiny Board of interim officer appointments at a cost of £20,000 or more and how this differs from the process for appointing of Consultants.

(2) If appointments are made on a consultant basis then the following provisions of the Constitution apply:

“Where a contract for a Consultant is estimated to cost £20,000 or more details of the proposed award must be forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member prior to the appropriate officer making the award. In this context a Consultant is defined as a named individual (i.e. the Council states it wants individual x) taken on to perform a particular, temporary, and defined, task.

Being a named individual a ‘Consultant’ must, by definition, have been sourced via a non-competitive process. All contracts for a Consultant for £20,000 or more must be reported, as a non-competitive procurement, to the Head of Democratic Services within 14 days of the contract being awarded so that s/he may notify Members of the Scrutiny Board. “(Appendix 5, pp 125-126).”

(3) Mrs Dean's concerns are that interim appointments at a cost of £20,000 or above are capable of being made without the non-executive Members of the council being made aware of it.

(4) Mrs Dean has requested that the Scrutiny Board scrutinise this matter and consider making recommendations to the Selection and Member Services Committee and the County Council to amend the provisions within the Constitution relating to Consultants so that they can also include reference to the appointment of interim managers.

2. Recommendation

The Board is asked to consider what action it wishes to take.