

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR/OFFICER DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL COMPANIES

Executive Summary

Councillor David Bittleston, Ray Morgan (Chief Executive) and Douglas Spinks (Deputy Chief Executive) are directors of a number of Council companies. Councillor Bittleston retires as a Councillor on 30 March 2021, and Mr Morgan and Mr Spinks retire from the Council's service on 31 March 2021. They will cease to be directors of the companies on those dates.

This report deals with the appointment of replacement directors to those companies which would otherwise not be (i) quorate or (ii) able to function following Councillor Bittleston and Mr Morgan and Mr Spinks ceasing to be a councillor and employees respectively.

Recommendations

The Council is requested to:

RESOLVE That

- (i) Councillor directors be appointed to the companies listed in paragraph 2.1 of this report [Note: Council will be advised of the proposed nominations at its meeting on 8 April 2021];
- (ii) Louise Strongitharm (Director of Housing) be appointed a director of Rutland (Woking) Limited, Rutland Woking (Carthouse Lane) Limited and Rutland Woking (Residential) Limited; and
- (iii) Geoff McManus (Director of Neighbourhood Services) and Giorgio Framalico (Director of Planning Services) be appointed directors of Woking Shopping Limited and Export House Limited.

The Council has the authority to determine the recommendations set out above.

Background Papers: None.

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Appointment of Councillor/Officer Directors to Council Companies

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Appointment of Councillor/Officer Directors to Council Companies

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council appointed Councillor David Bittleston, Ray Morgan (Chief Executive) and Douglas Spinks (Deputy Chief Executive) as directors of a number of Council companies. Councillor Bittleston retires as a Councillor on 30 April 2021, and Mr Morgan and Mr Spinks retire from the Council's service on 31 March 2021. They will cease to be directors of the companies on those dates.
- 1.2 This report only deals with the appointment of replacement directors to those companies which would otherwise not be (i) quorate or (ii) able to function. Vacancies on other companies will be addressed through the usual Selection Panel process (following the Borough elections), with appropriate appointments recommended to Council on 25 May 2021. As such, the recommended appointments can be regarded as interim appointments pending that process being completed.

2.0 Appointment of Councillor Directors

- 2.1 Councillor Bittleston is the sole Councillor director on the following companies:-

Rutland (Woking) Limited
Rutland Woking (Carthouse Lane) Limited
Rutland Woking (Residential) Limited
Victoria Square Woking Limited
Victoria Square Residential Limited
VSW Hotel Limited
Export House Limited

Replacement Councillor directors should be appointed to these companies.

- 2.2 The Leader of the Council has indicated that her preference is for Opposition member(s) to be appointed as directors to Council companies. This would contribute to cross-party oversight of the Council's subsidiary companies.
- 2.3 Council will be advised of the proposed nominations at its meeting on 8 April 2021.

3.0 Appointment of Officer Directors

- 3.1 Mr Morgan and/or Mr Spinks are the only Officer directors on the following companies:-

Rutland (Woking) Limited
Rutland Woking (Carthouse Lane) Limited
Rutland Woking (Residential) Limited
Woking Shopping Limited
Export House Limited

Replacement Officer directors should be appointed to these companies

- 3.2 It is proposed that Louise Strongitharm (Director of Housing) should be appointed a director of the three Rutland companies.
- 3.3 It is proposed that Geoff McManus (Director of Neighbourhood Services) and Giorgio Framalico (Director of Planning Services) should be appointed directors of Woking Shopping Limited and Export House Limited.
- 3.4 Prior to the then Chief Executive's leave of absence, Julie Fisher was appointed as a director of Victoria Square Woking Limited (in November 2018). This role will continue.

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4.0 Implications

Financial

4.1 None.

Human Resource/Training and Development

4.2 None.

Community Safety

4.3 None.

Risk Management

4.4 Appointing directors, as proposed in this report, contributes to the Council's oversight of its subsidiary companies.

Sustainability

4.5 None.

Equalities

4.6 None.

Safeguarding

4.7 None.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 It is necessary for the Council to appoint directors to Council companies arising from (i) Councillor David Bittleston retiring as a councillor on 30 March 2021 and (ii) the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive retiring from the Council's service on 31 March 2021. This report recommends the action which should be taken in respect of those appointments.

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