

Audit, Risk and Governance Committee
Meeting to be held on Monday, 29 January 2018

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Report of Decision taken under the Urgent Business Procedure

Contact for further information:
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Executive Summary

This report sets out, for the Committee's information, details of a decision that has been taken by the former Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services, under the County Council's procedure for dealing with matters of urgent business.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the report.

Background and Advice

Consultation on Disqualification Criteria for Councillors and Mayors

This decision was taken on 7 December 2017.

On 18 September 2017, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published a consultation on proposals to update the criteria disqualifying individuals from standing for, or holding office as, a local authority member, directly-elected mayor or member of the London Assembly, if they are subject to:

- The notification requirements set out in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (commonly referred to as 'being on the sex offenders register').
- A civil injunction granted under section 1 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- A Criminal Behaviour Order made under section 22 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Any changes to the disqualification criteria would require changes to primary legislation, in particular the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, and the Greater London Authority Act 1999. The proposed changes would not act retrospectively.

All members of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee were consulted and were invited to comment on the proposals.

A response was subsequently submitted to the DCLG supporting the proposals.

Due to the closing date for consultation responses to be submitted, it was not possible to wait for the next meeting of the Committee on 29 January 2018. Therefore, the decision was taken under the County Council's Urgent Business Procedure.

Consultations

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee were consulted and supported the proposed action.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
DCLG Consultation - Disqualification Criteria for Councillors and Mayors	18 September 2017	Paul Bond/(01772) 534676

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A