

COUNCIL

29 JANUARY 2020

**DESIGNATION OF STATUTORY OFFICER AND PROPER OFFICER
POSITIONS**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the designation of certain posts in respect of statutory and proper officer functions.

**2.0 Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning /
Statutory Director of Public Health**

2.1 At its meeting on 21 February 2019, as part of the Council's directorate and senior management restructure, the Human Resources Committee approved the creation of the new post of Executive Director of Public Health and Joint Commissioning, with the role of statutory director of public health sitting with a separate post within the Public Health and Joint Commissioning Directorate. On 17th December 2019, the Committee considered a further report on the Executive Director role and the process for recruitment to the post.

2.2 As a significant challenge for Sunderland remains around the health of the population, the post of Executive Director is to lead the new directorate, working in partnership with the CCG, to support a whole system approach to improving health outcomes for residents. Whilst the post is to provide system leadership for improving the health and wellbeing of residents, reducing inequalities in health outcomes and protecting local communities from public health hazards, a unique feature of the role is also to lead on the integration of the commissioning of services across both the Council and the CCG, to drive improvement in health outcomes.

2.3 It is proposed that the responsibilities of the postholder should include those of the statutory director of public health, and therefore the Human Resources Committee recommended that Council be requested to formally approve this designation, with effect from the commencement in post of the Executive Director. In addition, following further consultation with the CCG with regard to the roles and responsibilities of the post, it is proposed that it be retitled Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning and that the Directorate be retitled accordingly to Public Health and Integrated Commissioning.

3.0 Proper Officer for Registration Functions

- 3.1 At the meeting on 21 February 2019, the Human Resources Committee also agreed the transfer of the Registration Service to Law and Governance Services. Whilst Council subsequently approved the appropriate reallocation of delegated functions to officers to reflect the new management structure, there is also a requirement for designation of a “proper officer” for certain registration functions. In recent years the functions concerned and formal designations have been split between the Chief Executive, former Executive Director of Economy and Place and to an extent, the Registration Services Manager. It is therefore recommended that Council formally confirm that the Assistant Director of Law and Governance is the designated proper officer for registration services functions.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 To amend the title of the post of Executive Director of Public Health and Joint Commissioning to Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning and designate the post as the statutory director of public health under section 73A National Health Service Act 2006, with effect from the date of commencement in post of the first individual appointed to the position and to amend the title of the directorate to Public Health and Integrated Commissioning; and
- 4.2 To designate the post of Assistant Director of Law and Governance as the proper officer for the exercise of registration functions under the various legislative provisions relating to births, deaths and marriages, including the Registration Service Act 1953, the Marriage Act 1949 and Civil Partnership Act 2004 and to undertake all associated functions including those in respect of appointment of superintendent registrars, local schemes and other ceremonies including citizenship ceremonies.