

LEAD MEMBER: Councillor Y R T Clarkson

LEAD OFFICER: Paul Walker, Chief Executive

REPORT AUTHOR: Jessica Hall, Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer

**PROGRESS REPORT: WHITEHAVEN RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB – REVIEW
OF THE ROLE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On 22 November 2010 OSC Internal considered a report from the Chief Executive reviewing Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club: the role of Council Members.

A number of recommendations arose from the review and this report advises of the progress made against each one, to date.

RECOMMENDED:

That Members note the progress made in relation to those arising from the report on 22 November 2010.

1. BACKGROUND /INTRODUCTION

On 22 November 2010, OSC Internal considered a report from the Chief Executive. The report outlined findings resulting from a review of Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club and the role of Council Members.

The Chief Executive made a number of recommendations following his investigation, all of which were endorsed by Members.

The following advises Members of the progress made in relation to each recommendation to date.

2. PROGRESS AGAINST EACH RECOMMENDATION

a) Guidance to Councillors on their responsibilities as members of outside bodies

The Chief Executive's report attached the guidance as an appendix to the report and advised that it ought to be updated where appropriate and reissued to Members.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has prepared a report for Members which will be considered at Item 9 on the agenda.

- b) Reporting back procedures for Members agreed by Council in 2004 should be reviewed and updated by OSC with a view to implementing them as quickly as possible**

This is to be addressed at agenda Item 8.

- c) Members nominated to outside bodies should be required to fill in the annual reporting back return as updated by OSC by the end of April 2011. Following this a review of Members appointments should be carried out by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to consider in particular the benefits to both the Council and the outside body and to identify any potential conflicts of interest. This should be an annual process.**

As per outcome of Item 8 on the agenda.

- d) Members should ensure they update the Register of Members Interests as and when appropriate.**

The Democratic Service Manager has procedures in place to ensure Members are reminded of this twice per year.

- e) Specific training to be provided to councillors to serve as refresher training on their duties as councillors including when serving on outside bodies, when to declare interests etc. This should also be included in future new member induction programmes. The Member Development Group should be involved in defining the programme.**

Training will be incorporated into the Member Induction Programme. This recommendation in particular will be referred to the next agenda of the Member Development Panel before the end of January 2011.

- f) A specific officer nominee will be made to support and advise members in their role. The Officers' role as advisors should be clearly set out to ensure they do not conflict with their principle role to support the interest of Copeland Borough Council.**

A full list of all members on outside bodies is attached at Item 8 Appendix A. Identifying specific officer support for each one is currently being undertaken.

- g) The checklist for Executive decisions now includes a risk management section so the risk of all future decisions is formally recorded and**

The inclusion of a risk management section has been implemented. The Democratic Services Manager is currently reviewing the Executive report template. Like the risk management section, this will consider including other areas where there could be implications. This will then be rolled out to all other committee report templates.

h) The Chief Executive is asked to review any internal administrative procedures identified in the report which remain to be addressed

Internal administrative procedures in relation to Executive have been addressed and any other processes in need of improvement are to be brought to the attention of the Chief Executive.

i) An addendum to the report to be produced which gives a full breakdown of financial support from the West Cumbria Development Fund

This is complete and has been circulated to OSC Members and made available on the Council's website alongside the main report.

3. CONCLUSION

Members are asked to note that a number of the recommendations made by the Chief Executive and endorsed by them at the meeting on 22 November 2010 have since been addressed or are working towards implementation.