

Officer Requesting Decision

Acting Group Leader Development Management

Officer Making the Decision

Head of Planning and Regeneration

Recommendation

To allocate the approved budget of £31,100 to cost centre P499 A0101 and, as from 1 April 2022, increase the hours in posts:

-) P112 Senior/Principal Planning Officer (Grade E-PO1) by 8 hours from 170.5 hours to 178.5 hours
-) Post M362 Planning Assistant (Grade D) by 22 hours from 126 hours to 148 hours

Reason

To maintain performance and to ensure continuity of service in the Development Management team.

Authority for Decision

- 1) Part 8, section 8.2.6 of the Constitution gives the Chief Executive authority to agree changes to the establishment, within budget and without major operational disruption or interruption of services or involving a change from direct to indirect provision or vice-versa or other policy implications. This has been sib-delegated to Strategic Directors and Heads of Service in certain circumstances, which this proposal falls within.

Decision and Date

11 March 2022

Background

Over the last 18 months there has been a sustained and significant high level of planning application and appeal workload in the Development Management Group that cannot be satisfied by the existing resources available. Agency workers and outsourcing of planning applications to the private sector have both been used as a contingency to ensure that services are maintained. This approach is unsustainable going forward due to high level of cost to the service.

Service pressures were raised through the budget process to SLT in October 2021 to help address the capacity issues and Cabinet referred proposals for additional budget to increase hours in two posts in the service to Council in February 2022. Accordingly, additional budget of £31,100 was approved by Council on 21 February 2022 (minute 132 21/22 refers).

The proposal is to increase the hours of Post P112 by 8 hours from 170.5 hours to 178.5 hours and to increase the hours of Post M362 Planning Assistant by 22 hours from 126 hours to 148 hours. These changes will increase post P112 from 4.6 FTE to 4.8 FTE and post M362 from 3.4 FTE to 4 FTE.

Comments from HR

HR Adviser: Anna Cairns (2/3/22)

If these posts are held by staff Variation e-forms will need to be completed, if they are newly available hours the normal recruitment process should be followed.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as the budget has been approved from 1 April 2022.

Risk Management

No risks have been identified

Key Decision

No

Background Papers

None