

Report to COUNCIL

Districts Lead Members

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

Report Author: Liz Drogan, Head of Democratic Services

3rd November 2021

Reason for Decision

Further to the Constitutional changes agreed by Council on 14th July 2021, Council is asked to consider appointing District Leads for each new geographical District and a Deputy District Lead in North and East Districts and the recommendation that the District Leads receive an allowance.

Recommendations

1. To appoint a District Lead for each District Area and a Deputy District Lead in the North District and East District.
2. To agree the allowance for the District Leads is £6,286 following a recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the adjustment to the basic allowance as outlined in the report.

Districts and Lead Members – Changes to the Constitution

1 Background and Current Position

1.1 As part of the development of the new Place-Based Working model, the Council and partner services have moved to alignment of provision around a new set of five geographies. Council agreed to the changes on 14th July 2021. To facilitate the role of Elected Members in the Place-Based model, a new District Lead is required for each of the new 5 Districts. A Deputy in North District and East District would also be required. This is to reflect the consultation with members over the past twelve months, recognise the wards in the North and East fall into two distinct communities, and to reflect the governance arrangements that have been in place and worked over the past few years. The deputies will not be remunerated.

1.2 The new Districts:

District	Wards Covered
Central	Alexandra Coldhurst St Mary's
North	Crompton Royton North Royton South Shaw
East	Saddleworth North Saddleworth South Saddleworth West and Lees St James' Waterhead
South	Failsworth East Failsworth West Hollinwood Medlock Vale
West	Chadderton Central Chadderton North Chadderton South Werneth

1.3 Particularly critical in achieving this ambition will be the role of the Lead Elected Member within each District. This role will provide a key leadership function, liaising with, and representing the views of, all Elected Members within the District, and chairing the new governance body within the District, once established. For some areas it may be appropriate to have deputies albeit additional funding would not be

assigned to this and a local arrangement will be put in place. As outlined above this would be for North and East.

2 Options/Alternatives

- 2.1 Option 1 – Appoint a District lead for each of the 5 geographical areas with a Deputy to be appointed in North District and East District and the allowance.
- 2.2 Option 2 – Do not appoint a District lead for each of the 5 geographical areas with a Deputy to be appointed in North District and East District.

3 Preferred Option

- 3.1 The preferred option is Option 1

4 Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation took place with Group Leaders on 28th June 2021.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are currently seven District Leads with a combined allowance of £43,100;

Oldham East District	£7,182
Oldham West District	£6,286
Chadderton	£6,286
Saddleworth	£6,286
Failsworth & Hollinwood	£6,286
Royton	£5,387
Shaw & Crompton	£5,387
	<u>£43,100</u>

- 5.2 Moving to pay an allowance to five leads at a median figure of £6,286 will reduce the total allowances paid to £31,430. The proposal is that the Leads will receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £6,286. The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), have recommended that the allowance at the figure proposed. Further, subsequent to the report in May 2021, the IRP have also recommended for this municipal year, that the basic allowance should increased in line with the officer pay award.

6 Legal Services Comments

- 6.1 Council can choose to appoint a District Lead and Deputies in the defined areas. If there is more than one nomination for the District Lead/Deputy, Council will decide by simple majority.

7. Co-operative Agenda

- 7.1 This change will support the co-operative agenda by more closely aligning Council and partner services to both each other and local communities. By creating a strengthened Lead Member role, Elected Members will be further supported in their role as local leaders, increasing their ability to achieve positive change for the communities they represent.

8 Human Resources Comments

8.1	None
9	Risk Assessments
9.1	N/A
10	IT Implications
10.1	None
11	Property Implications
11.1	None
12	Procurement Implications
12.1	None
13	Environmental and Health & Safety Implications
13.1	None
14	Equality, community cohesion and crime implications
14.1	None
15	Implications for Children and Young People
15.1	None
16	Equality Impact Assessment Completed?
16.1	No
17	Key Decision
17.1	No
18	Key Decision Reference
18.1	N/A
19	Background Papers
19.1	None
20	Appendices
20.1	Appendix 1 – Role Description Appendix 2 – Nominations

10.2 District Leads

- 10.2.1 The role of the District Lead is to work closely with all elected members in their district to support them in their role as strong local leaders.
- 10.2.2 The District Lead also plays a vital role in championing the needs of the district. They provide leadership across the district and ensure parallels exist between corporate and local priorities, and also cross-partnership priorities
- 10.2.3 The role is a strategic position that requires vision and the ability to look beyond ward issues to those that affect the district as a whole. It is important that the District Lead is able to make decisions based on district priorities which may not always align fully with ward priorities.
- 10.2.4 The District Lead will also need to be able to apply a systems-thinking approach, in order to recognise and influence factors that impact on the capacity to deliver positive outcomes for the communities of Oldham.

10.3 Requirements of the District Lead

The District Lead is a Councillor who will -

- a) provide leadership within and beyond the district;
- b) support elected members in the district in their role as local leaders;
- c) engage with elected members across the district and encourage active contribution to district initiatives that take place;
- d) supported by the District Team, work with the Place Leadership Board to develop the District Plan, ensuring it reflects both local and corporate priorities, and builds towards a set of shared outcomes agreements with partners
- e) champion the district as a place and represent the district in any discussions and/or negotiations at a borough level;
- f) lead on any applications to the Local Improvement Fund.
- g) Chair the Place Leadership Board at a local level, and relevant working groups as appropriate;
- h) lead on the development of a district Community Engagement Strategy, ensuring all residents have an opportunity to contribute their ideas or concerns to the district;
- i) work as appropriate with the Place Leadership Board, Executive Management Team, District Coordinator and District Team to plan and deliver against locally agreed priorities;
- j) liaise and work with other District Leads as and when required to deliver against priorities that cross district boundaries;
- k) liaise with and respond to the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as and when required;

-
- l) ensure that all actions and activities of the district are carried out in a socially inclusive way, in full acknowledgement and discharge of the equality legislation pertaining to all protected characteristics, and also legislation pertaining to the environment;
 - m) work with appropriate Cabinet Member identify further opportunities for district working as appropriate;
 - n) be the lead member in a district for corporate campaigns and ensure the involvement of Ward Members in supporting this activity.
 - o) work, as appropriate, through formal and informal partnership with voluntary, private sector and other public sector interests to enhance the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the local community;
 - p) support the development of a strong Voluntary, Community and Faith sector which can work with the District Team in improving the quality of life of local people and encouraging the active involvement of residents in this;
 - q) promote the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector as a key driver of local productivity, recognising the contribution of this sector in improving the economy and enterprise of the district;
 - r) champion events, festivals and celebrations across the district.
 - s) provide leadership in building strong cohesive communities within and beyond the district; and
 - t) promote equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination.

Appendix 2 – Nominations

District Leads (Outside Political Balance)

<u>CENTRAL DISTRICT LEAD</u>	
Councillor	

<u>NORTH DISTRICT LEAD</u>	
Councillor	
Deputy – Councillor	

<u>EAST DISTRICT LEAD</u>	
Councillor	
Deputy – Councillor	

<u>SOUTH DISTRICT LEAD</u>	
Councillor	

<u>WEST DISTRICT LEAD</u>	
Chair: Councillor	