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## Report of the Director of City Development

### Standards Committee

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Subject: Review of Politically Restricted Post – Economic Policy and Information Manager PO6

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek exemption for the Economic Policy and Information Manager from the list of Politically Restricted Posts which is maintained by the Authority under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

## 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 An application for an exemption from the list of Politically Restricted Posts has been received. The post in question is the Economic Policy and Information Manager. The application is set out in Appendix 1, and the Certificate of Opinion is attached at Appendix 2. As the post is currently vacant, the Director of City Development has completed the application.

## 3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The post of Economic Policy and Information Manager includes spinal column point 46 to spinal column point 49. Advice was taken from the Chief Officer HR in respect of Procedures for exempting Politically Restricted Posts. This indicates that whilst the post is on the list as post type category B because the remuneration spinal point is between 46-49 it is not one of the posts specified in the legislation (category A only). As a category B post the right exists to seek exemption.
- 3.3 The Chief Officer of Economic Development and the Head of Service responsible for the management of the post in question has considered the request in the context of the job description and the responsibilities required as essential to the effective fulfillment of the role. In their view the general and specific responsibilities of the post are not considered to be politically sensitive under the terms of the Act.

#### **4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

- 4.1 Under its Terms of Reference, the Standards Committee is authorised to consider applications for exemptions from political restriction and to give directions to the Council requiring it to include a post in the list of politically restricted posts.

#### **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

- 5.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report, and the legal implications are set out in the Certificate of Opinion (Appendix 2).

#### **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 It is the view of the Strategic Director of City Development that although the post of Economic Policy and Information Manager PO6 is remunerated at or above spinal column point 44 on the NJC for Local Government Service scales, the duties are not sensitive; and an exemption should be granted, and the post removed from the List.

#### **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Strategic Director of City Development would ask the Standards Committee to consider the application made to it, and to concur with her opinion in regard to whether this post should be included on the list.

#### Background Documents

Standards Committee Terms of Reference  
Local Government and Housing Act 1989