

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT BY MONITORING OFFICER

TO:	COUNCIL		
DATE:	27 JANUARY 2009	AGENDA ITEM:	15
TITLE:	LEAD COUNCILLOR FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR LOVELOCK	PORTFOLIO:	LEADER
SERVICE:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGH-WIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	JOHN PAINTER	TEL:	0118 939 0797 / 72797
JOB TITLE:	HEAD OF CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	E-MAIL:	John.painter@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Councillor Ruhemann submitted his resignation as Lead Councillor for Children's Services following the Cabinet meeting on 19 January 2009. The Leader of the Council will move a motion to fill this vacancy at tonight's meeting.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 The Leader of the Council will move a motion to appoint a new Lead Councillor for Children's Services, for the rest of the current Municipal Year, and to make any collateral appointments arising from this appointment.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Under Article 7.4 of the Council's constitution (the Executive), Lead Councillors are appointed to the Cabinet by full Council, and can be removed by resolution of full Council.
- 3.2 Councillor Ruhemann has resigned from his office as Lead Councillor for Children's Services under Article 7.4(b).
- 3.3 The Council is required to designate a Lead Councillor for Children's Services under Section 19(1) of the Children's Act 2004. The functions of the Lead Councillor are set out in Section 3 of the Council's constitution (Responsibilities

for Executive Functions - Lead Councillor Portfolios) which includes the functions specified in the Children's Act 2004.

- 3.4 The Cabinet appointed by full Council in May 2008 for the current Municipal Year consists of the Leader and eight Lead Councillors (ie nine members in total). The Cabinet may range in size between three and 10 members.
- 3.5 A Councillor who is appointed as a Lead Councillor cannot serve on an Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Therefore the appointment of a new Councillor to the Cabinet is likely to require accompanying changes to replace that Councillor on any Overview and Scrutiny Panels of which s/he is a member. The Leader's motion may also cover these associated changes.
- 3.6 The Lead Councillor for Children's Services is a member of the following bodies, on which Councillor Ruhemann will be replaced by the new Lead Councillor:
 - Reading Children's Trust Board
 - Crime and Disorder Partnership
 - Corporate Asset Management Plan Steering Group
- 3.7 Councillor Ruhemann, in his own right, has also been appointed to a number of bodies which may parallel his role as Lead Councillor for Children's Services, and the Leader may also wish to make changes to these.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All Lead Councillors are paid a Special Responsibility Allowance at Tier 1 (currently £4,325pa)

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 E-mail from Cllr Ruhemann to Chief Executive, 19 January 2008.