

Chief Officer Appointments Panel

Wednesday 14 August 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor Aspinall, in the Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Blight, Haydon, Laing, Lugger and Stephens.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Evans OBE

Also in attendance: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), Chris Squire (Service Director for HROD) and Jake Metcalfe (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 5.35 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

35. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Evans OBE, Councillor Haydon substituted.

Councillor Haydon proposed Councillor Aspinall as Chair for this meeting of the Panel which was seconded by Councillor Mrs Beer.

The Panel agreed unanimously to appoint Councillor Mary Aspinall as Chair for this meeting of the Panel.

36. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

37. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There was no items of urgent business.

38. **Recruitment to the role of Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities**

Tracey Lee (Chief Executive) and Chris Squire (Service Director for HROD) presented the report the Panel and highlighted the following points:

- a) The Chief Officers Appointments Panel held on 02 August agreed to bring back options for the recruitment to a Service Director for Adults, Health and Communities;

- b) Options considered were:
- i. To re-advertise the role for permanent recruitment
 - ii. To advertise for an external interim consultant
 - iii. Continue to fill the role through existing acting up arrangements, or;
 - iv. Further explore the suitability of an existing candidate who was previously interviewed for the role. This was a key post on the Council's Management Team with responsibility for a number of statutory activities around the protection of some of the City's most vulnerable people and was best served by a dedicated permanent appointment.
- c) The recommendation was therefore to further explore the suitability of an existing candidate for the permanent role.
- d) Following interviews for the Chief Operating Officer role in which the second candidate for interviews of the Service Director for Adults, Health and Communities held on 28 June 2024 was a candidate, it was agreed to progress the candidate for a further interview at this meeting of the Panel to determine the suitability.

Panel unanimously agreed to

1. Note the content of the report.
2. Undertake formal interview for the role of Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities.

39. **Exempt Business**

The Panel agreed to pass a resolution under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

40. **Recruitment to the role of Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities**

(Please note, there is a confidential part to this minute)

Following an interview process, the Panel agreed unanimously to appoint candidate Gary Walbridge to the position of Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities.