

Chief Officer Appointments Panel

Thursday 3 July 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Lowry, in the Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer (substitute for Councillor Nicholson), Mrs Bowyer (substitute for Councillor Bowyer), Sam Davey (substitute for Councillor Mrs Aspinall) and Vincent (substitute for Councillor Evans).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Evans (Chair), Peter Smith (Vice Chair), Mrs Aspinall, Bowyer, Darcy (substitute), Nicholson and Mrs Pengelly.

Also in attendance: Carole Burgoyne (Strategic Director for People), Bernadette Smith (HR Adviser), Linda Torney (Assistant Head of Legal Services) and Nicola Kirby (Senior Democratic Support Officer (Cabinet)). Simon Rice Birchall, External Adviser, Eversheds.

The meeting started at 1.00 pm and finished at 2.40 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee 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.

16. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Agreed that Councillor Lowry is appointed Chair for this meeting of the panel.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors in accordance with the code of conduct in relation to items under consideration at this meeting.

18. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of chair's urgent business.

19. EXEMPT BUSINESS

Agreed that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local government Act, 1972, the press and public be exclude from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

20. **SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW - NEXT STEPS (E2)**

Carole Burgoyne (Strategic Director for People) submitted a report on actions taken to progress the senior management restructure to date following the decision taken by the City Council on 16 September 2013 and options about the next steps to be taken.

The panel agreed unanimously that based on legal advice received both internally and externally, Members were content to proceed with the meeting.

Simon Rice Birchall (external adviser, Eversheds) addressed the panel and gave legally privileged advice and the officers reported further.

The panel also received a copy of a letter which was dated 30 June 2014 and received shortly before the panel meeting. The meeting paused to enable Members to read it. The initial letter from Simon Rice Birchall was also read to the panel.

As future background information, officers were requested to ascertain the information indicated.

The panel considered -

- (a) the alternative options in the written report;
- (b) the advice of the officers;
- (c) the advice (given under legal privilege) from Simon Rice Birchall;
- (d) their ability to exercise their duty of care as an employer;

and for the reasons stated in the report, agreed the recommendations as set out in the written report.

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