

Chief Officer Appointments Panel

Thursday 3 July 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Aspinall, in the Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Blight, Coker, Lugger and Penberthy.

Also in attendance: Chris Squire (Service Director for HROD), Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities), Jake Metcalfe (Democratic Advisor) and Hannah Chandler-Whiting (Democractic Advisor).

The meeting started at 10am and finished at 3pm.

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.

36. **Apologies**

Councillor Lugger proposed Councillor Aspinall as Chair for the meeting which was seconded by Councillor Blight.

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

There were apologies received from:

- Councillor Evans OBE, Councillor Penberthy substituted
- Councillor Laing

37. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

38. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 20 June 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

39. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chairs Urgent Business.

40. **Recruitment to Service Director for Adult Social Care**

Chris Squire (Service Director for HROD) presented the report to the Panel and highlighted the following key points:

- a) The position of Service Director for Adult Social Care was a new position within the Senior Leadership Team which was agreed by Council on 17 March 2025;
- b) The new position replaced the previous position of Head of Adult Social Care and Retained Functions;
- c) The role would be responsible for the largest budget in the Council and was also important in relation to influence within Plymouth;
- d) A thorough search and selection process took place with three being put forward to the Assessment Centre;
- e) The assessment centre activity included discussions with Tracey Lee (Chief Executive), Gary Walbridge (Strategic Director for Adults, Health and Communities), Senior Leadership Team panel, Staff panel and an external panel;
- f) Candidates also undertook written and financial exercises as well as psychometric tests;
- g) Two candidates were put forward to the Panel for interview.

The Panel agreed to:

- 1. Note the content of the report;
- 2. Undertake formal interviews for the post of Service Director for Adult Social Care.

41. **Exempt Business**

The Panel agreed that 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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

42. **Recruitment to Service Director for Adult Social Care**

Following an interview process, the Panel agreed to offer the role of Service Director for Adult Social Care, to Julia Brown subject to Cabinet approval and the necessary pre-employment checks.

43. **Confidential Minutes**

The confidential minutes of the meeting that took place on 20 June 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.