

Minutes of the meeting of Employment panel held at Online meeting only on Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor David Hitchiner (chairperson)
Councillor Ellie Chowns (vice-chairperson)

Councillors: Tony Johnson, Liz Harvey and Terry James

Officers: Assistant director, people

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

17. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

None.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

19. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020 were approved and signed by the chairperson.

20. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

21. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no questions from councillors.

22. CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT

After a full and rigorous recruitment process, including final interviews on Monday 11 January 2021, the employment panel agreed unanimously that, subject to there being no valid objections, Paul Walker be recommended to council as the council's chief executive.

The matter of the statutory roles of head of paid service and returning officer from 12 February 2021 were discussed. The employment panel agreed that the solicitor to the council be designated as returning officer and recommend to full council that the solicitor to the council would also be head of paid service until the new chief executive was in post. As the monitoring officer role could not hold these two other statutory roles at the same time, it was further agreed that the interim head of legal services be appointed as the acting monitoring officer until the new chief executive was in post.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) Subject to no valid objections being received from cabinet members by midday on 15 January 2021 Paul Walker is recommended to full council as the candidate to be appointed as the council's chief executive and head of paid service.**
- (b) The solicitor to the council is recommended to full council as the post holder designated to be an acting head of paid service from 12 February 2021 when the current chief executive leaves the council's employment and until the newly appointed chief executive starts in post.**
- (c) To ensure appropriate and necessary separation of statutory roles, the interim head of legal services is recommended to full council as the post holder designated to be acting monitoring officer for any period of time when the solicitor to the council is designated as acting head of paid service.**
- (d) The solicitor to the council is designated returning officer from 12 February 2021 when the current chief executive leaves the council's employment and until the newly appointed chief executive starts in post.**

The meeting ended at 17:38 pm

Chairperson