



Appointment of Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and designation of statutory roles

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The designation of a Head of Paid Service is required under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Following the departure of the previous Chief Executive, Paul Robinson, this role has been fulfilled by the Acting Chief Executive, Christine Durrant.
- 1.2 A recruitment exercise was undertaken during March and April resulting in a cross-party panel of councillors unanimously selecting Carole Mills to become Derby City Council's Chief Executive. This report seeks the required Council approval to make that appointment and to make the designation to Head of Paid Service.
- 1.3 It is also proposed that two proper officer roles which were assigned to Christine Durrant on an interim basis following the departure of the Director of Governance, Janie Berry, in April 2018 be permanently assigned to the new Chief Executive.
- 1.3 The designation of a Chief Finance Officer is required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. This role is currently being fulfilled by the Interim Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, Don McLure.
- 1.4 The recruitment exercise to appoint a permanent Strategic Director of Corporate Resources is not yet complete. This report seeks to make appropriate arrangements to enable this matter to progress expediently while satisfying the need to achieve Council approval.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the supporting information supplied in relation to Carole Mills.
- 2.2 To approve the appointment of Carole Mills as Chief Executive, and to designate to her the statutory role of Head of Paid Service as required under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to take effect following the completion of her service with Milton Keynes Council.
- 2.3 To designate Carole Mills as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer in accordance with the Representation of the People Acts, also to take effect following the completion of her service with Milton Keynes Council.

- 2.4 To approve the principle of an Appointments Panel confirming an appointment to the post of Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, to fulfil the statutory duty of Chief Finance Officer as required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 2.5 To authorise the Appointments Panel to make the appointment to the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, and Section 151 Officer.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with the Council Constitution and statute while ensuring recruitment to key posts can proceed as expediently as possible.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appointment of Chief Executive, Designation of Head of Paid Service and Designation of Proper Officer Roles

- 4.1 It is necessary to make an appointment to the statutory role of Head of Paid Service in accordance with Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Christine Durrant has fulfilled this duty, as Acting Chief Executive, since Paul Robinson's departure on 18 March 2018.
- 4.2 A recruitment process took place during March and April, including a final interview before an Appointments Panel comprising Councillors Banwait, Barker, Evans, Hezelgrave, Rawson and Skelton on 17 April 2018. The panel unanimously agreed to offer the post to Carole Mills.
- 4.3 The necessary consultation with Council Cabinet members, in accordance with Officer Employment Procedure Rules, took place immediately following the Appointments Panel reaching its decision.
- 4.4 Carole Mills joined Milton Keynes Council as Chief Executive in 2014 and over the last 16 years has held senior strategic roles at metropolitan and unitary councils including Walsall and Nottingham City. It is proposed that she would be an appropriate appointment to the proper officer roles of Electoral Services Officer and Returning Officer.
- 4.5 It is proposed that Christine Durrant will continue in her Acting Chief Executive Role and Andy Smith as Acting Deputy Chief Executive, before returning to their substantive roles upon Carole's commencement with Derby City Council.

Appointment of Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and Designation of Section 151 Officer

- 4.6 Every local authority is required to designate a suitably qualified officer to act as Chief Finance Officer under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The role is usually referred to as 'the Section 151 Officer' and is currently filled by the Interim Strategic Director, Don McLure.

- 4.7 While the Council Constitution permits the Appointments Panel to make an appointment to a Strategic Director, Government guidance is that the appointment of any post attracting a salary in excess of £100,000 should be subject to a vote of Council. That approval in principle is sought at recommendation 2.3.
- 4.8 The Scheme of Delegations authorises the Appointments Panel to make recommendations on appointment of the Section 151 Officer. Changes in legislation mean Council approval is no longer required, so recommendation 2.4 would extend that delegation to including confirming the decision.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The referral of the Appointments Panel's recommendation of Carole Mills as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service is in accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules. No other options are considered.
- 5.2 The alternatives to making a decision on the appointment of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and designation of Section 151 Officer would be to either:
- (a) Delay any decision until the Council meeting in July;
 - (b) Summon an Extraordinary Meeting of Council in June to consider the matter.
- 5.3 Neither of the options detailed above are considered efficient or expedient so have been discounted.

<p>For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:</p>	<p>David Walsh 01332 643555 david.walsh@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications</p>
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Funding for these posts is already established. The Chief Executive will receive a starting salary of up to £164,000 per annum and the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources will receive a salary of up to £125,000 per annum.

Legal

- 2.1 Approval of the recommendations will ensure compliance with the necessity to designate statutory officers under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Personnel

- 3.1 None beyond direct impact on those identified in the report.

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- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 None.