

Public

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: **Appointment of Interim Managing Director, Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer**

Meeting/Date: Council – Thursday 15th December 2022

Executive Portfolio: **Executive Leader – Councillor S Conboy**

Report by: Resource and Talent Development Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

Following the announcement of the resignation of the current Managing Director as Head of Paid Service, it is necessary to make interim arrangements to appoint to the role of Head of Paid Service alongside the statutory roles of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.

This report seeks the Council's approval of interim arrangements for the designation of an Interim Managing Director as Head of Paid Service, Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer pending the formalisation of more permanent arrangements.

It is

RECOMMENDED

that Oliver Morley, Corporate Director (People), be appointed as the Council's Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service, Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer on an interim basis from 1st March 2023 for a fixed term ending 31st August 2023.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is required to have the statutory officer of Head of Paid Service. The Council's Constitution designates this post to the role of Managing Director and the current Managing Director will be leaving the Council's service on 28th February 2023.
- 1.2 In order to provide ongoing continuity for the organisation it is proposed that an Interim Managing Director is appointed for a period of six months and such an appointment will authorise the Interim Managing Director to exercise all functions currently undertaken by the present Managing Director as set out in the Council's Constitution.
- 1.3 The current postholder also acts as the Electoral Registration Officer for the purposes of electoral administration arrangements and also carries the separate appointment of Returning Officer for the purpose of elections to the Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is required to designate one of its officers as Head of Paid Service as set out in the Council's Constitution and under section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This appointment must be made by full Council.
- 2.3 As a result of a recent resignation, the position of Managing Director and Head of Paid Service, Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer will become vacant on 1st March 2023. As there is a period of time between the departure of the postholder and the appointment of a successor, an interim arrangement will need to be put in place.
- 2.4 The Senior Officers' Committee was convened on 24th November 2022 to consider applications from internal candidates and in accordance with the Council's Officer Employment Procedure Rules an offer of appointment as Interim Head of Paid Service shall not be made by the Council until details of the proposed appointment have been provided to Members of the Cabinet, who must be given a period of objection. It was confirmed at the meeting of the Cabinet on 12th December 2022 that there was no objection from any Member of the Cabinet to the offer of employment.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Under 4(1)(a) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is the duty of every relevant local authority to designate one of their officers as the head of paid service.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The recommended approach can be met from existing budgets.

5. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 5.1 This proposal enables the Council to fulfil its duty to appoint an Officer to discharge the full responsibilities of the Head of Paid Service as set out in the Council's Constitution and under section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The District Council's Constitution

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