

## Report of the Monitoring Officer

**Recommendations of the Chief Officer Employment Committee**1. Purpose of Report

To receive the recommendations of the Chief Officer Employment Committee regarding the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive and Interim Directors for the Council.

2. Recommendation

**It is RECOMMENDED to Council that:**

- 1. The appointment of Zulfiqar Darr as the Council's Chief Executive be approved**
- 2. The appointment of Emma Georgiou as Interim Director of Environment and Leisure be approved.**
- 3. The appointment of Ryan Dawson as Interim Director of Planning and Economic Development be approved.**
- 4. The appointment of Rachel Shaw as Interim Director of Housing, Environmental Health and Communities be approved.**
- 5. Consequential amendments to the Constitution are made in relation to recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4.**

3. Detail

The Chief Officer Employment Committee has held meetings on 6 February, 27 March, 22 April and 1 May 2026 following the resignation of the former Chief Executive in September 2025. The purpose of the meetings has been to consider the process of the recruitment of a new permanent Chief Executive and the appointment of Interim Directors to provide support for the General Management Team following the deletion of the Executive Director post.

The recommendations from the Chief Officer Employment Committee were agreed following interviews with the respective candidates. The relevant CV's and Expressions of Interest are included in the confidential appendices.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The salary costs of any new appointments would be contained within the approved establishment budget in 2026/27.

**5. Legal Implications**

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Under Chapter 2, Part 8-17 Committee Arrangements paragraph 11 of the Council's Constitution, the Chief Officer Employment Committee are able to 'recommend to full Council the appointment of the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer and any other Chief Officer'.

Under Chapter 2 Part 1 & 2 paragraph 1.6.12 of the Constitution, full Council are responsible for the 'appointment and dismissal of the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, S151 Officer and other Chief Officers'.

Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (the Regulations) set out the requirements for the appointment of Chief Officers and the relevant provisions of the Regulations are contained in the Chief Officer Employment Committee terms of reference, which are set out in the Constitution in Chapter 2 Part 8-17 Committee Arrangements.

**6. Union Comments**

There were no Union comments to be added.

**7. Climate Change Implications**

Not applicable.

**8. Data Protection Compliance Implications**

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

**9. Equality Impact Assessment**

As this is not a change to policy or a new policy, an equality impact assessment not required.

**10. Background Papers**

Nil.