

## **CHIEF OFFICERS' COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Chief Officers' Committee held on Monday, 24 May 2021 at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Kendal.

### **PRESENT:**

Mr SF Young (Chair)

Mrs A Burns  
Mrs HF Carrick

Dr S Haraldsen  
Mr P Thornton

### **Also in Attendance:-**

Mrs J Currie - Professional Lead - Democratic Services  
Ms K Fairclough - Chief Executive  
Ms L Robb - Senior Manager - People Management

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting of the County Council committees since the national restrictions in response to Covid-19 were introduced in March 2020. He reminded members that this meeting was taking place still under Covid-19 Restrictions, and he outlined the rules which still needed to be followed.

### **PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

#### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence on this occasion.

#### **2 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED,** that the press and public be excluded during consideration of Agenda Item No 6 – Appointment of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as this report contains exempt information relating to an individual.

#### **3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest to this meeting.

#### **4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 April 2021 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### **5 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and time of the next meeting of the Chief Officers Committee will be notified as required.

### **PART II - ITEMS CONSIDERED NOT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

#### **6 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE) AND APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (SECTION 151 OFFICER)**

Members considered a report from the Chief Executive which recommended, following a robust selection process, the temporary appointment of the Director of Finance (s151 Officer) and recommendation to Council to appoint the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service).

Following the external advertisement of the post of temporary Chief Executive eight applications were received. Four applications met the essential application criteria and were progressed to Technical Interview stage.

Technical interviews took place on 7 May and three candidates were successfully progressed to the two-day selection process. Following this two of the candidates then progressed to being interviewed by the Committee.

The Chief Executive took members through the report and the interviews which had taken place on 20 and 21 May 2021. Upon conclusion of the discussions members noted that a conditional offer had been made to Ms Gillian Steward, which had been accepted. It was unanimously agreed to recommend to full Council the appointment of Ms G Steward as the temporary Chief Executive for a period of up to 12 months, with the possibility of an extension up to a further 12 months .

In relation to the appointment of a temporary Director of Finance (s151 Officer) the Chief Executive took members through the report and the interviews which had taken place on 11 and 12 May 2021. Upon conclusion of the discussions members noted that a conditional offer had been made to Ms Pam Duke, which had been accepted. Members unanimously agreed the appointment of Ms P Duke as the temporary Director of Finance (s151 Officer) for a period of up to 12 months, with the possibility of an extension up to a further 12 months.

**RESOLVED,** that the Chief Officers Committee

- (1) agree a **RECOMMENDATION** to the Council for the temporary appointment, for a period of up to 12 months, with the possibility of an extension up to a further 12 months, of Ms G Steward, for the role of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service);
- (2) Agree the appointment of Pam Duke, as the temporary Director of Finance (s151 Officer) for a period of up to 12 months, with the possibility of an extension up to a further 12 months.

The meeting ended at 2.10 pm