

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the **Chief Officer Appointments Committee** held in Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 16 June 2022** at **1.30 pm**

Present:

Councillor A Hopgood in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors R Bell (Vice-Chair), R Adcock-Forster, R Crute, C Marshall, E Scott, J Shuttleworth, P Sexton and A Surtees.

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O Gunn, D Oliver and A Shield.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor P Sexton was substitute for Councillor A Shield.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any items of business on the agenda.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2021 were agreed as correct record and signed by the Chair.

5 Creation of Head of Service, Head of Corporate Affairs

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval to create a new Head of Service role which would report directly to the Chief Executive (for copy see file of Minutes).

The report was being considered by the Committee following changes to the Constitution approved at the annual meeting of the Council in May 2022.

The Committee were informed that the postholder would lead on the management of the Council's corporate affairs and provide support to the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team to deliver the strategic priorities for the Council. This would include Corporate Communications, Media, Corporate Strategy, Planning and Performance.

In response to a question from Councillor R Bell, the Chief Executive informed the Committee that the proposal involved the deletion of two roles and the associated transfer of functions. The Chief Executive highlighted the importance of bringing external stakeholder management under one Head of Service.

In response to a question from Councillor E Scott regarding the timescale for the appointment and any associated restructure, the Strategic Manager for People and Talent Management informed the Committee that it was hoped to advertise the post relatively quickly. The Chief Executive added that the structure would be reorganised in conjunction with newly appointed Head of Service.

Resolved

That the recommendations in the report be agreed.