

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESTER-LE-STREET

Report of the meeting of the Appointments Panel held in Box 13, Riverside Cricket Ground, Chester-le-Street on Thursday 8 November 2007 at 5.00pm.

Members Present: Councillors SA Henig (Chairman), JW Barrett, K Potts, A Turner and JM Proud.

Officers Present: R Templeman (Chief Executive) and C Turnbull (Democratic Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

3. CHANGES TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Consideration was given to a report from the Chief Executive containing recommendations for changes to the senior management of the Council. (A copy of the report is appended to these minutes for Members information).

The Chief Executive advised that the Director of Community Services and Director of Resources were leaving the Council to take up positions with Cestria Housing Association; the Head of Organisational Development had been successful in securing a position at a Metropolitan Authority; and the Head of Regeneration had secured a post with a private organisation. In relation to the Director of Resources, Head of Organisational Development and Head of Regeneration positions, a number of options had been explored:-

- a. Sharing strategic resources with other Councils
- b. Interim Management arrangements
- c. New appointments
- d. Acting up arrangements with Heads of Service and changed responsibilities with other members of CMT

The Chief Executive outlined his proposals, as detailed in the report: -

- i. The Assistant Chief Executive, whilst retaining his current responsibilities, to take over responsibility for management of the Human Resources and Health and Safety Section, and the post be re-designated Director of Corporate Services.
- ii. One manager in the Resources Directorate and the Regeneration Section to act up to coordinate and deliver the day to day management.
- iii. The current Deputy 151 Officer to be appointed as the Council's 151 Officer

- iv. The need for Heads of Service and Senior Managers to be more flexible because of the likely additional pressures, responsibilities and changing priorities.
- v. The provision of a sum from the resultant budget savings for specialist advice to support the new management arrangements.

RESOLVED: "That the proposed management changes be supported and the Council be RECOMMENDED to:-

1. Agree the revised responsibilities and designation of Director of Corporate Services and the appointment of the current Assistant Chief Executive to the position.
2. Approve the appointment of the current Deputy 151 Officer to the position of 151 Officer and to the appointment of a new Deputy 151 Officer.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive to continue with the appointment process for the acting up arrangements in the Resources Directorate and Regeneration Section.
4. Agree that part of the savings (with a ceiling of £50,000 in any one year) be specifically earmarked for the Chief Executive to use as appropriate to procure specialist expertise that may be necessary to support the Council over the following 12 to 18 months. The use of the fund to be subject to agreement with the Leader/Deputy Leader of the Council.
5. Agree that the net annual revenue savings to be generated by the new arrangements be utilised to address budget pressures in 2007/8 and 2008/9."

The meeting terminated at 5.47pm