



## Council

### **Appointment of the Chief Executive (Head of the Paid Service)**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Contributors:** Director of Law & Corporate Governance

### **Outline and recommendations**

This report asks Council to confirm the appointment of Jennifer Daothong as Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) of the Council.

Council is asked to approve the appointment of Jennifer Daothong, Acting Chief Executive as Chief Executive, including designation as Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer, and Electoral Registration Officer.

### **Timeline of engagement and decision-making**

Council – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (Appointment of Interim Chief Executive)

Appointments Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (Selection of the Chief Executive)

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. In January 2023, the previous Chief Executive announced their departure.
- 1.2. Following a Council decision on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Jennifer Daothong has been acting as Interim Chief Executive.
- 1.3. An extensive external recruitment process was undertaken for a new permanent Chief Executive.
- 1.4. The Council's Appointment Committee met on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and unanimously agreed to recommend that Jennifer Daothong be appointed

permanent Chief Executive of the Council.

## **2. Recommendations**

Council is asked to approve the appointment of Jennifer Daothong, Acting Chief Executive as Chief Executive, including designation as Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer, and Electoral Registration Officer.

## **3. Legal Implications**

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 section 4 requires that the Council designate one of its officers as the Head of Paid Service (usually the Chief Executive). The decision to appoint to this statutory role is by law, a decision for full Council. In addition, section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to appoint an officer of the Council to be the Returning Officer for the election of councillors. Traditionally, the Council has appointed this independent statutory role to the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is also usually the Council's Electoral Registration Officer.

## **4. Financial Implications**

The costs of the post of Chief Executive are met from within existing budgets.

## **5. Report author(s) and contact**

Jeremy Chambers, Director of Law and Corporate Governance.

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