

Minutes of a Meeting of the Appointments Committee held in the Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR, on Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at 5.30 pm

Minutes of a Meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Tuesday 6 June 2023 in the Sedgemoor Meeting room, Bridgwater House, Bridgwater at 5:30pm.

Present:, Cllr A Dingwall, Cllr V Keitch, Cllr L Leyshon, Cllr S Osbourne, Cllr B Revans.

Duncan Sharkey (Chief Executive, SC), (HR, SC), Neil Milne (Democratic Services, SC), Honor Clarke (Legal Services, SC), Sari Brice (SCC HR),

Attending virtually: Cllr Mandy Chilcott and Cllr Sarah Wakefield.

Apologies for absence: no apologies received.

1 Appointment of a Chair for the meeting - Agenda Item 1

Cllr B Revans, Leader of the Council having been proposed (Cllr L Leyshon) and seconded (Cllr A Hendry) was unanimously elected as the Chair for the meeting.

2 Apologies - Agenda Item 2

3 Declaration of interests - Agenda Item 3

The Members present confirmed that although they all knew the person that had made the application, they had no declarations to make having read the guidance notes regarding conflicts of interests provided by the Monitoring Officer. The Officers present also declared that although some of them knew the person that had made the application, there were no conflicts of interest.

4 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 4

There were no public questions.

5 Exclusion of the press and public - Agenda Item 5

The Committee unanimously agreed, having been proposed (Cllr L Leyshon) and seconded (Cllr V Keitch), that under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded during the remainder of the meeting on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information of the following description:

- Information relating to any individual
- Information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual.

6 To Appoint Service Director - Strategy and Performance - Agenda Item 6

The Chair advised that as an Appointments Panel, they had followed a robust process, which provided full opportunity to test, through questioning, the shortlisted candidates for the role of Service Director for Performance and Strategy.

The Committee reflected that they had been impressed by the candidates passion and enthusiasm for the role. It was noted that the Members of the Committee had the benefit of receiving feedback from both the staff panel and the stakeholder panel following their sessions with each of the candidates.

The Members had then reviewed again the questions they had prepared for their interviews with the candidates to ensure they had covered all the areas they wished to discuss.

Members reflected on their interviews with each candidate and that they had covered a variety of different topics areas and sought to gauge responses to questions that tested the candidates knowledge and how they might develop their strategic vision to respond to challenges and ensure that Somerset flourished.

The Committee noted that during the interviews all candidates had been given an opportunity to demonstrate their experience, knowledge, skills and personal attributes required to fulfil the role.

The Committee were of a unanimous view that the candidate was able to demonstrate the required experience and skills for the particular role.

The Committee unanimously agreed, having been proposed (Cllr S Osbourne) and seconded (Cllr L Leyshon), to appoint Mrs Cretney as Service Director for Performance and Strategy.

The Chair thanked his Committee colleagues, stakeholders, staff and both HR and Democratic Services Teams, who had supported their recruitment process today.

7 Minutes of the meeting - Agenda Item 7

The Committee unanimously agreed, having been proposed (Cllr A Dingwall) and seconded (Cllr S Osbourne), to authorise the Chair of the meeting to sign and authorise the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

There being no other items the Chair thanked all those present, both in-person and remote, for attending and closed the meeting at 5.45pm.

(The meeting ended at 5.45 pm)

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CHAIR