

DORSET COUNCIL - STAFFING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 10 JANUARY 2020

Present: Cllrs Spencer Flower (Chairman), Jon Andrews, Graham Carr-Jones, Jill Haynes and Nick Ireland

Apologies: None

Also present: Cllr Andrew Parry

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

David McIntosh (Corporate Director (HR & OD)), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive) and Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

12. Apologies

There were no apologies to report.

13. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

14. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

15. Public Participation

There was no public participation to report.

16. Appointment of Interim Executive Director of Children's Services

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Early Help advised the committee that a vacancy had arisen following the resignation of Sarah Parker, Executive Director People – Children's Services, who had ended her employment with Dorset Council on 31 December 2019.

Members were informed that the post of Executive Director People – Children's Services formed part of the Dorset Council Senior Leadership Team, and had a statutory role within the authority, holding responsibility for:

- schools and learning
- children's care and protection
- commissioning and partnerships
- safeguarding and standards

Theresa Leavy had been working alongside the former Executive Director as part of the consultation work for the “Blueprint for Change”.

Following a member led appointment’s process Ms Leavy had been invited to take an interim lead for the services functions and statutory role. Members of the committee agreed that this proposal would provide continuity for the service and were satisfied that Ms Leavy met the requirements of the role.

As a point of clarification, the Chief Executive confirmed that the salary payment would be within the Executive Directorate salary range.

Decision

- (a) That following a member led appointment process, Theresa Leavy be appointed to the position of Interim Executive Director People – Children’s Services, for a period of 12 months from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.
- (b) That in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Children, Education and Early Help and Corporate Development and Change, authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, for the potential option to offer a further interim period of up to 6 months.

17. **Urgent items**

The following items of business were considered by the Chairman as urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The item was considered to be urgent in order to inform members of changes to the Senior Leadership under the Chief Executive’s delegated powers.

18. **Appointment of Executive Director People - Adults and Housing Services**

The Chief Executive reported that due to unforeseen circumstances there was a need to appoint to the position of Acting Executive Director People – Adults and Housing until the return of the substantive post holder to their role.

He advised the committee that under his delegated powers he had appointed Vivienne Broadhurst to the position due to her current knowledge of the service and in order to maintain continuity and stability. It was noted that the role of Director of Adult Service (DASS) was a statutory function and he sought the committees support for this decision.

It was likely that the appointment would be for a period of three to six months, but asked that this should remain flexible. The post holder’s salary would be within the Executive Directorate salary range.

The committee supported this interim solution, but also requested that the appropriate support be put into place at the Corporate Directorate level of the service.

Decision

That the decision of the Chief Executive to appoint Vivienne Broadhurst to the position of Acting Executive Director People – Adults and Housing until the return of the substantive post holder, be supported and noted.

19. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business to report.

Duration of meeting: 11.30 - 11.42 am

Chairman

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