

Title of Report	Extension of Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and Returning Officer and Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer
For Consideration By	Council
Meeting Date	29 November 2023
Classification	Open
Ward(s) Affected	All
Group Director	Sandra Farquharson, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development

1. **Summary**

- 1.1. This report requests Full Council to note the extension of the roles of the Interim Chief Executive and Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer for a further six month period from 1st February 2024 to 31st July 2024.
- 1.2. The extension is to allow the Council sufficient time to see through Mayoral and ward elections, and the recruitment process for Hackney's permanent Chief Executive.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1. **That Full Council notes the Appointment Sub-Committee's decision that the roles of Dawn Carter-McDonald, Interim Chief Executive and Louise Humphreys, Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer are extended for a further 6 month period from 1st February to 31st July 2024.**

3. **Background**

- 3.1. The procedures for Chief Officer appointments are set out in Part 8, Section B under Officer Employment Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.
- 3.2. At its meeting on 24 July 2023, Full Council approved the Appointment Sub-Committee's recommendation for Dawn Carter McDonald, to be appointed as the Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and

Returning Officer from the 1st August 2023 for 6 months.

- 3.3. Full Council also approved the recommendation for Louise Humphreys to be appointed to the Interim Chief Executives substantive position, as Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services (Monitoring Officer) for 6 months, and Jackie Moylan, as the Interim Group Director Finance (Section 151 Officer) for 12 months from 1st August 2023.
- 3.4. Since Full Council's approval in July, the Recruitment Partner Tender process was undertaken and two appointable Partners were identified, however due to the previous Elected Mayor's resignation, the preferred Partner has not yet been selected.
- 3.5. Currently, the period of the Interim Chief Executive, and the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services (Monitoring Officer) appointments end on the 31st January 2024.
- 3.6. A meeting of the Appointments Sub-Committee was held on 7 November 2023. The Appointments Sub-Committee noted that the initial 6 months period approved at Full Council on 24 July was not a sufficient enough time period to resume and conclude the permanent recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive; obtain approval at Full Council of the successful applicant and to ensure that there is enough time for normal contractual notice periods which is normally a minimum of 3 months notice at Chief Officer level.
- 3.7. The Appointments Sub-Committee therefore agreed to approve the extension for a further six months.

4. Comments of the Group Director of Finance

- 4.1 There are no financial implications. All costs associated with recruitment and remuneration of the Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and Returning Officer, Group Director Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer and Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer will be met in line with the service budgets set by Council and Cabinet.

5. Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

- 5.1 Full Council has established an Appointments Committee in line with Article 4.7 (d) of the Council's Constitution. The recommendations contained within this report are designed to ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations to appoint a Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and a Monitoring Officer on merit pursuant to the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 and meet its obligations pursuant to article 4.7 (J) and (K) of the constitution..

- 5.2. The report also sets out the decision made in line with the requirements of Officer Employment Procedure Rules, as outlined in Part 8, Section B of the Council's Constitution and complies with the requirements under Section 35 Representation of The People Act 1983, I to have an appointed Returning Officer.

Appendices

None.

Background papers

None.

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