



SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON 5TH DECEMBER 2017 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Bevan - Mayor
Councillor M. Adams - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

C. Bezzina, L. Binding, A. Collis, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, M. Davies, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, Ms E. Forehead, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, N. George, C. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.T. Hardacre, L. Harding, D. Harse, D. Havard, A. Hussey, M. James, V. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, Mrs B. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs G. Oliver, B. Owen, T. Parry, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, Mrs D. Price, J. Pritchard, J. Ridgewell, J.E. Roberts, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Scriven, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, R. Whiting, L G. Whittle, T. Williams and W. Williams.

Together with:-

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), R. Harris (Head of Internal Audit and Deputy Monitoring Officer), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), D. Marr (Deputy Monitoring Officer – Cardiff City Council) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

1. WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Interim Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made publically available in live and archive form via the Council's website. He advised that decisions would be made by show of hands.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E. Aldworth, Mrs C. Andrews, A. Angel, P. Bevan, W. David, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, C. Forehead, J. Fussell, A. Higgs, Mrs P. Marsden, Mrs B. Miles, D. Preece, R. Saralis, G. Simmonds, A. Whitcombe, B. Zaplatynski and D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services) and Mrs C. Harry (Corporate Director – Communities).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services) and Mrs C. HARRY (Corporate Director – Communities) declared an interest in agenda item 3 – Designation of Interim Head of Paid Service and were not present during the meeting.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE LEADER

The Leader, Councillor D.V. Poole, in noting the recent announcement that the Interim Chief Executive, Mr Chris Burns will be leaving the Authority at the end of December, paid tribute to the Interim Chief Executive. It was noted that Mr Burns joined the Authority in September 2014, on a temporary appointment, during a particularly difficult time and has “steadied the ship”, for which the Leader, and Council offered their sincere thanks.

Sentiments of gratitude were echoed from the Leader of Plaid Cymru and the Independent Group, and Council thanked the Interim Chief Executive for his hard work, assistance and support and wished him well in the future.

Mr Burns thanked the Leaders for their comments and highlighted that it had been a great honour to be appointed. Acknowledging the challenging circumstances in which he was appointed, Mr Burns highlighted a number of positive outcomes to the challenges which were achieved during his time as Interim Chief Executive, for example the delivery of balanced budgets, achievements within the Education Directorate, with 3 new schools being built to a high standard and on time and within budget, the partnership working that has been established with secondary head teachers and the improvements made within the school league tables.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

5. DESIGNATION OF INTERIM HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report, which recommended the appointment of an Interim Head of Paid Service/ Chief Executive.

It was noted that the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires a relevant local authority to designate an officer as Head of Paid Service. Within the Council, this responsibility is designated to the Chief Executive. The appointment of which must be made by Full Council.

It was noted that since September 2014 Mr Chris Burns has been employed as the Interim Chief Executive, employed on a series of twelve month contracts. On the expiry of the most recent 12 month contract in August 2017, which was extended by Council for a further period until the 31st December 2017. It is necessary for Council to designate a Head of Paid Service from that date. Mr Burns has indicated that he does not wish to extend this contract for a further period and it is therefore necessary for Council to designate another person to fulfil this role.

The report recommended that Mrs Christina HARRY, Corporate Director for Communities, be designated as Interim Head of Paid Service/ Chief Executive for a period of six months.

A Member sought clarification on the backfilling of relevant posts within the Executive Office in order to ensure that there are sufficient Senior Officers appointed to meet

workloads demands and, in addition, how these posts would be funded. Officers explained that, should the appointment be agreed, the Officer would consider the staffing structure and relevant arrangements would be made. In addition, Members were asked to note that the backfilling of posts would be met from the substantive budget in place for staffing within that Department, and therefore there would be no requirement to utilise reserves.

Members debated the recommendations within the report and in noting that Officers were aware of the Interim Chief Executives intentions to leave the Authority at the end of the year, sought clarification as to whether Welsh Government (WG) or Wales Local Government Association (WLGA) had been consulted on the appointment, and whether or not they had made any recommendations in respect of Officers to fill the role in the meantime. It was confirmed that consultation had been conducted with WG and there were no objections to the appointment.

Following detailed debate, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations within the Leaders Report be agreed.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the Appointment be deferred and an approach be made to WG and WLGA.

During the ensuing debate, and in raising concerns around the current Interim arrangements in place, and in recognising the urgency of the appointment, a Member proposed that the appointment be made on a 3 month basis in the first instance; as such a further amendment was moved and seconded that the Appointment be made on a 3 month basis.

In taking the amendment, by show of hands this was lost. By show of hands, the further amendment was also lost. Members then considered the motion and by a show of hands (and in noting that there was 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report:

- (i) the requirements of the post, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved;
- (ii) Mrs Christina Harry be designated as Interim Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive for a period of six months on the terms outlined within the report;
- (iii) the interim appointment be made at the first point of the relevant pay scale and fixed at that point with no incremental progression;
- (iv) Mrs Christina Harry also be designated as the Interim Electoral Registration and Returning Officer.

The meeting closed at 5.28pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2018 and they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR