

Thursday, 25 May 2017, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

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COUNCIL
25 MAY 2017**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM HEAD OF PAID
SERVICE/CHIEF EXECUTIVE - APPENDIX**

Recommendation

1. **The Appointments etc Panel recommends that the Council approves the appointment of Stephen Stewart as Interim Chief Executive.**

Summary

1. The Appointments etc Panel met on 18 May to consider its recommendations to Council for the appointment of an interim replacement for Clare Marchant, the Council's current Chief Executive. The Panel interviewed suitable candidates and decided to recommend that Mr Stephen Stewart be appointed as Interim Chief Executive upon Clare Marchant's departure on 29 June. It is anticipated that this appointment would last for 6 to 9 months to allow for further consideration of the nature of the permanent post and recruitment to it.

Background Information

2. As the cover report indicated, the Council is required by law to have a Head of Paid Service (HPS) appointed by full Council. The Panel considered it appropriate to continue the Council's current model by appointing an Interim Chief Executive to fulfil this statutory role, but without prejudice to further consideration of the model for a permanent appointment. It was suggested that amongst the various duties the priorities for the interim post were: to support the Director of Children, Families and Communities to implement the Safeguarding Improvement Plan, to support the Council's ongoing Transformation agenda and Corporate Plan, and to lead and co-ordinate the Strategic Leadership Team.
3. After competitive interviews, the Panel decided to recommend Mr Stephen Stewart for the post of Interim Chief Executive. The Panel authorised the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, in consultation with the Chairman of the Panel (Mr S E Geraghty), to settle the details should Council approve the recommendation to appoint Mr Stewart. It is anticipated that Mr Stewart would be directly employed on a fixed term contract rather than a consultant, and paid within the existing Chief Executive salary range.
4. Mr Stewart has a wealth of experience at senior levels in local government, including as Chief Executive at Northumberland County Council and Interim Chief Executive at City of York Council. During his tenure, Northumberland was one of the few councils in the country to be rated 'outstanding' for children's safeguarding, and he was directly involved in major economic regeneration in York.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the Proper Officer (in this case the Head of Legal & Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

COUNCIL
25 MAY 2017**QUESTION TIME**

Question 6 – Mercury Payroll System Trials in Schools

6. Mr R C Lunn will ask the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility:

"Can the relevant Cabinet Member explain, why the new Mercury payroll system introduced in early April for all staff working in schools, was not trialled more extensively to iron out faults, and also why running the old and new systems alongside each other, was ruled out as an option due to lack of resourcing? Would they also like to take this opportunity to apologise to all schools for the problems and extra work they have been caused?"

Question 7 – Cost of Mercury Payroll System

7. Mr R C Lunn will ask the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility:

"How much has the numerous issues caused by the implementation of the Mercury payroll system cost the County Council? Will this money be reclaimed from the service provider, and can schools similarly claim for all the extra time and work they have put in?"

Question 8 – Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Programme

8. Prof J W Raine will ask the Leader of the Council:

"Over the past eighteen months this Council has responded positively to requests from the community for Worcestershire to play a part in supporting HM Government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Programme (SVPR). As a result, a number of Syrian families are now living in safety once again and are rebuilding their shattered lives in communities in different parts of our county. We understand that the process of resettlement and local integration has generally gone very smoothly and, for this, the County Council, its partner, Refugee Action, and the many individual volunteers who have also been involved, are to be congratulated.

But, of course, there remain many thousands of displaced and dislocated Syrian families who are still having to endure the harshness of camp conditions in neighbouring countries, and who are so desperate for their chance of resettlement into safety and the opportunity to begin to rebuild their lives.

Our Government remains committed to the SVPR programme, which in turn depends on local authority co-operation, and many of us in Worcestershire are hoping that this County Council will want to continue the good work already done and be prepared to welcome more families – unfortunate victims of war in Syria.

So would the Leader please inform Council of plans by WCC for 2017-18 and beyond, to support further intakes of refugees from Syria under the Government's SVPR Programme?

And perhaps he would also tell us if this County Council is willing to resettle some of the 480 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that our Government has committed to accept into Britain, under the Dubs amendment, and who are currently living rough and in quite appalling circumstances in and around Calais?"

Question 9 – Residents' Parking Review

9. Mr M E Jenkins will ask the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility:

"The Member Advisory Group on Residents' Parking completed a thorough review of the council's resident parking scheme and proposed some important amendments and improvements to the existing policy. Would the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility confirm when the report based on this review will be presented to Cabinet for approval?"

Question 10 – Local Transport Plan

10. Mr M E Jenkins will ask the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility:

"With the continuing damage to both the economy and our environment due to the congestion problems in Worcester and elsewhere in the county, it is imperative that we have a strategic plan for transport that can tackle these issues. Would the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility confirm when the new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) will be presented to members for adoption?"

Question 11 – Highway Infrastructure improvements for North Worcestershire

11. Mr C Hotham will ask the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility:

"Please could the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility explain why so little of the improved highway infrastructure promised for North Worcestershire by the Longbridge area action plan has been delivered, with particular reference to the A441 in Hopwood?"

Question 12 – Council-owned Small holdings

12. Mr R M Udall will ask the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility:

"Can the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility confirm how many people are employed by our tenants on farms and small holdings owned by the County Council?"

Question 13 - Cathedral Square Bus Stop

13. Mr P Denham will ask the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility:

"I refer to the suspension, for about eight weeks, of the very well-used bus stop at Cathedral Square in Worcester, caused by the current redevelopment works.

Can the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility advise Council what consultations took place with bus users before deciding the locations of alternative bus stops?"

Question 14 – Hedgerow Ownership and Management in Mitton Bank

14. Mr A I Hardman will ask the Leader of the Council:

"The Hedgerows in Mitton Bank, the entrance to our County from Gloucestershire, are a very important landscape feature and much admired by visitors at this time of year. Bredon Parish Council maintain that the hedgerows are in the ownership of the County Council, and hence could be saved for the Nation if the Inspector of the North Gloucestershire development plan makes a decision to allocate the bank as a development site; which could lead to their destruction.

Will the leader please organise a site visit with the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility, and Head of Highways to meet with Bredon Parish Councillors to determine ownership, and their future management?"

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

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