

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

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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.