

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL held at COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN, CB11 4ER, on THURSDAY, 10 JUNE 2021 at 6.15 pm

Present: Councillor A Coote (Chair)
Councillors A Armstrong, M Caton, C Criscione, C Day, J Emanuel, J Evans, M Foley, R Freeman, N Gregory, N Hargreaves, V Isham, R Jones, A Khan, P Lavelle, G LeCount, P Lees, M Lemon, J Lodge, S Luck, S Merifield, E Oliver, R Pavitt, N Reeve, G Sell, G Smith, M Sutton and M Tayler

Officers in attendance: B Ferguson (Democratic Services Manager), C Gibson (Democratic Services Officer), J Reynolds (Lawyer) and N Roberts (HR Manager).

C19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Asker, Bagnall, Barker, Dean, Driscoll, Eke, Fairhurst, Light, Loughlin, Pepper and De Vries.

C20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Councillor Lees proposed the motion that was seconded by Councillor Merifield.

RESOLVED that under section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

C21 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM HEAD OF PAID SERVICE AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Leader of the Council summarised the report and outlined the credentials of the recommended candidate. He said that in view of the imminent departure of the current Head of Paid Service and Chief Executive it had been necessary for the Appointments Committee to consider urgent interim arrangements pending the permanent recruitment to the position.

In response to various questions, the Leader of the Council confirmed that:

- The appointment was open-ended as it could take up to 5 months for a permanent recruitment.
- The recommended candidate would be paid on a day-rate on a consultancy contract.
- The recommended candidate would have a presence in Uttlesford.
- The recommended candidate would take over as Head of Paid Service and Chief Executive from 1 July 2021.

- He would keep Members informed of progress.

Councillor Caton expressed concerns over the speed of the recruitment process and the possibility of the recommended candidate working remotely.

Councillor Merifield said that the Council had had to move quickly to replace the current Head of Paid Service and Chief Executive. She said that the candidate had been recommended by the Local Government Association.

Councillor Criscione said that he did not have any concerns about the speed of the recruitment process and that he held no reservations about officers working remotely.

In response to a question from Councillor Gregory, the HR Manager confirmed that Solace would pick up any IR35 taxation issues and there was therefore no risk to the Council.

Councillor Emanuel said that the recommended candidate's CV was impressive and commented that remote working had been proven to work.

Councillor Reeve said that the CV was very favourable and that he applauded those involved in the recruitment process.

The Leader of the Council proposed that the recommended candidate for the Interim Head of Paid Service and Chief Executive as set out in the report be approved. Councillor Merifield seconded the motion.

RESOLVED that the recommended candidate for the Interim Head of Paid Service and Chief Executive as set out in the report be approved.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm.