



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

The purpose of this report is to request that County Council approves the appointment of an Interim Head of Paid Service.

BACKGROUND:

1. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to have in place three statutory officers; the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer. The Council therefore has a statutory obligation to appoint a Head of Paid Service to cover the period after Leigh Whitehouse leaves the Council to take up a new role as Chief Executive at West Sussex County Council, until the new permanent Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, Terence Herbert, starts on 19 August 2024. Leigh Whitehouse's last working day is Friday 31 May 2024, so the interim arrangements need to be in place from Monday 3 June 2024.
2. Members of the People, Performance and Development Committee recommend that Michael Coughlin, Executive Director Customers, Digital and Transformation, is appointed as Head of Paid Service during this period.
3. Michael is currently due to leave the Council on 30 June 2024 but has agreed to extend his service to take on this temporary role. Michael has worked for Surrey County Council since February 2018 and was previously the Deputy Chief Executive. He has experience as a Head of Paid Service from when he was Chief Executive at Reading Borough Council for 4 years until May 2012.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the County Council appoints Michael Coughlin to act as Interim Head of Paid Service for Surrey County Council from 3 June 2024 until 18 August 2024.

Lead/Contact Officers:

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Sources/background papers:

None
