

MINUTES of the meeting of the General Services Committee held on 12 December 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors John Kent (Chair), Barbara Rice (Vice Chair), Mark Coxshall, John Purkiss (substitute for Barry Palmer) and Andy Smith

Apologies: Councillors Phil Anderson, Barry Palmer and Phil Smith

In attendance: Graham Farrant – Chief Executive
Jackie Hinchliffe – Head of HR, OD & Customer Strategy
Steve Jones – Democratic Services Manager

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair advised all in attendance that the meeting was to be recorded for publication to the internet.

6. MINUTES

The Minutes of the General Services Committee, held on 13 June 2013, were approved as a correct record.

7. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair informed the Committee that he had not agreed to the consideration of any items of urgent business.

8. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS, HEALTH & COMMISSIONING

The Chair introduced a report submitted by the Chief Executive, which requested the Committee to consider and agree the proposed arrangements for permanent appointments to be made to the posts of Director of Children's Services and Director of Adults, Health & Commissioning.

The proposed timetable for the appointments to both posts was set out at paragraph 3.7 of the report.

The issue of potential dates for interviews to be held in January was raised and a Member advised that they would like to take part in this but their availability somewhat restricted the dates they could be involved to 13, 14 or 15 January. A request was made for the Committee to undertake the final

interviews on any of the dates identified. The Chair informed the Committee that he did not see any difficulty with this.

In addition, a Member informed the Committee that he would like to see the Council implement something to encourage people to stay in post for at least 2 to 3 years. The Chair accepted the point raised and advised the Committee that people had stayed for at least 3 to 4 years for most of the Director-level appointments the Council had made in recent years, with one exception when a person emigrated 7 months after taking up the post. It was noted that this was the kind of issue that could be raised during the interview process.

Members indicated their agreement to the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the appointment process be agreed, as set out in the report.**
- 2. That the appointment of Penna, to complete an external assessment process for shortlisted candidates, be noted.**
- 3. That the General Services Committee be the appointment panel for the posts of Director of Children's Services and Director of Adults, Health & Commissioning.**

The meeting finished at 7.04pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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or alternatively e-mail sjones@thurrock.gov.uk**