

REPORT OF THE MEMBER APPOINTMENT PANEL

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 1.1. Bob Jackson took the decision to stand down from his post of Chief Executive with effect from 15th August 2021. At the meeting of the District Council on 21 June 2021, the recruitment process to appoint a new Chief Executive was agreed.
- 1.2. By virtue of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (as amended) ('the Regulations'), approval of appointment of the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) of the District Council is required to be done by the full Council.
- 1.3. Following the recruitment process being agreed at Council, SOLACE, who provide an Executive Recruitment and Search service, were commissioned. Initial long listing and early technical interviews of long listed candidates were carried out by SOLACE. SOLACE then reported on the outcome of the suggested short list candidates to the Member Appointment Panel and a shortlist of six candidates was agreed.
- 1.4. The appointment panel was previously agreed at Council on 21st June and consisted of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Leader of the Opposition, and a non-executive Member to be determined by the Leader of the Council, (Cllr Keith Craze).
- 1.5. The six short listed candidates were then put through a rigorous assessment centre which included two psychometric assessments, a discussion with the Leader of the Council and three separate exercises designed to look at problem solving, strategic awareness and political awareness.
- 1.6. SOLACE then reported on the outcome of the exercises to the Member Appointment Panel. After discussion a shortlist of three candidates was agreed.
- 1.7. Shortlisted candidates were interviewed by the Member Appointment Panel on 5 August 2021. There were three external candidates.
- 1.8. The Member Appointment Panel unanimously agreed that their preferred candidate was Kate Ryan, currently Chief Operations Officer for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

2. Details of interviews and recommendation for appointment

- 2.1. By virtue of the requirements of the Regulations and the Council's Standing Orders, following selection of a preferred candidate Cabinet is required to be notified as to details of the proposed appointment, and not to have any objection to the recommendation of the Members' Appointment Panel. The Executive has accordingly been informed as to details of the preferred candidate and has no objection to the appointment.

2.2. In accordance with the Regulations and Standing Orders the Council is now required to approve the appointment.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council approves the appointment of Kate Ryan as Chief Executive of New Forest District Council.

Heleana Aylett
Service Manager – Human Resources