



REVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend Council to approve the establishment of a new Service Director post in the Office of the Chief Executive (OCE).
2. As part of the senior manager review last year it was agreed that the OCE would be independently reviewed, with a focus on alignment between priorities and corporate communications.
3. A comprehensive review of the OCE has therefore been undertaken. The review has been supported by Bernie McArdle, an Associate of the North East Regional Employers Organisation (NEREO). He has provided professional advice and an independent view of the issues arising, as well as suggestions for a proposed refreshed model for the OCE.

Proposal

4. The two primary proposals stemming from the review are to repurpose the communications function and to create a new Service Director post. This new post will provide direct support to the Chief Executive and the Corporate Management Team and will manage the repurposed communications and engagement function and implement the recommendations arising from the review of the OCE.
5. Within the recommendations it is also proposed that:
 - (a) The Research and Intelligence team, which has supported the intelligence and insight requirements of public health prior to, and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic moves to the Public Health and Wellbeing service on a permanent basis.
 - (b) The Economic Policy and Partnerships team move to the Economy, Innovation and Growth group to directly support the Strategic Director with the Council's recovery from the pandemic.
 - (c) The Policy and Equalities function move to the Resources and Digital group to support the Commercialisation and Improvement service and its activity.
6. The Cabinet has agreed that formal consultation be undertaken with employees and the Trade Unions on the proposals and has recommended Council to agree to the establishment of the Service Director post in the OCE.

7. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating its recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

8. It is recommended that Council approve the establishment of a new Service Director post in the Office of the Chief Executive.