



COUNCIL MEETING

23 May 2024

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report of the Special Appointments Committee

Executive Summary

1. The Council is recommended to approve Dale Owens as its Chief Executive.
2. Dale is currently Strategic Director of Integrated Adults and Social Care Services at Gateshead Council and has previously held the positions of Assistant Director of Health and Adult Services and Head of Accommodation – Supported Housing at North Yorkshire County Council.

Background

3. On 30 January 2024 it was announced that Chief Executive Sheena Ramsey would leave Gateshead Council in May 2024.
4. Recruitment for the new Chief Executive commenced from April 2024 to identify a permanent replacement.
5. The Employee Recruitment Rules, set out in the Council's Constitution and reflecting the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 ('the Regulations'), provide that the full Council will consider the appointment of the head of paid service following a recommendation from the Special Appointments Committee.

Recruitment

6. Following a national recruitment exercise, the Special Appointments Committee shortlisted and interviewed candidates before arriving at a recommendation. This was preceded by a preliminary interview, various psychometric assessments and feedback from panels comprising various stakeholders and partners of the Council.
7. The Special Appointments Committee undertook final interviews with shortlisted candidates on 20 May 2024. The Committee was supported by the recruitment consultancy's national local government lead with support from the Service Director of Human Resources.
8. The Committee agreed that the Council should be recommended to approve the appointment of Dale Owens

9. The Employee Recruitment Rules also provide that no offer of appointment may be made until every member of the Cabinet has been notified of the name of the person whom the Council wishes to appoint, and of the period within which any objection to the appointment must be made. If no objection is made by the Leader on behalf of the Cabinet, or if any such objection is not material or well founded, the offer of appointment may be made. Again, this procedure is a requirement of the Regulations.
10. Members of Cabinet have confirmed they have no such objections.

Recommendation

11. The Council is recommended to approve the appointment of Dale Owens as Chief Executive, effective from 1 June 2024.