

Birmingham City Council

Report to Employment Committee

6 June 2024



Title: APPOINTMENT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

Lead Cabinet Portfolio: Councillor John Cotton, Leader of Birmingham City Council

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Is this a Key Decision? No

Is this a Late Report? Yes

Reason(s) why Late: Interviews held on 3 June

Is this decision eligible for 'call in?' No

If not eligible, please provide reason(s): Not an executive decision

Wards: All

Does this report contain exempt or confidential information? No

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is to confirm the appointment of Joanne Roney to the position of Managing Director (Head of Paid Service) at Birmingham City Council.
- 1.2 The Employment Committee's Interview Panel met on 3 June 2024 and unanimously agreed to offer the position to the successful candidate Ms Joanne Roney.
- 1.3 Joanne Roney is the current Chief Executive of Manchester City Council.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 2.1 Commissioners endorse the unanimous conclusion of the Employment Committee's Interview Panel to offer Joanne Roney the post of Managing Director and Head of Paid Service for the City Council and exercise their Direction powers accordingly.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Employment Committee:

- 3.1 Notes the appointment of Joanne Roney as Managing Director (Head of Paid Service) of Birmingham City Council on a permanent basis.

4 KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 On 5 October 2023, the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) issued statutory Directions to appoint Commissioners who are responsible for governance, scrutiny of strategic decision making, finance, and senior appointments.
- 4.2 The Directions make clear that the Commissioners have power to appoint the Head of Paid Service alongside other key statutory officer positions. The Commissioners have chosen to operate these powers in a flexible way with most senior officer appointments being in accordance with the Council's Employment Procedure Rules where Commissioners exercise an oversight role but the right is reserved to fully operate the power on a case by case or class of post basis
- 4.3 The appointment of Joanne Roney was agreed in the attendance of Lead Commissioner Max Caller and Pam Parkes, Commissioner responsible for HR and related matters and the respective Leaders of the major parties.
- 4.4 The Employment Procedure Rules of the Council require the Interview Panel to formally notify all cabinet members of the proposed appointment. The Rules permit any cabinet member with a well-founded objection to oppose the appointment.
- 4.5 All cabinet members were notified of the proposed appointment on 3 June and given 24 hours to respond. No objections have been received.

- 4.6 It will also be recommended to Council that Joanne Roney is appointed as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer once she takes up her appointment.

Other Options Considered

- 4.7 No other options considered at this time.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 No consultation required, content of report for noting only.

6 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance

The financial implications are contained in the exempt report

Legal

The Employment Committee comprises 7 Councillors chaired by the Leader of the Council and including an appropriate cabinet member or lead member depending upon the specific issue being dealt with.

The Council has delegated to the Employment Committee; responsibility for the appointment of chief officers as set out in the Employment Procedure Rules of the Constituion . The Committee nominate up to five members to conduct final interviews and decide, if appropriate, which candidate will be offered the role.

On 5 October 2023, the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) issued statutory Directions to appoint Commissioners who are responsible for governance, scrutiny of strategic decision making, finance, and senior appointments.

The Directions make clear that powers to appoint and dismiss officers in the top three tiers have been granted to Commissioners. Commissioners have chosen to operate these powers in a flexible way with most processes being in accordance with the Employment Procedure Rules where Commissioners exercise an oversight role, but the right is reserved to fully operate the power on a case by case or class of post basis.

The Employment Procedure Rules of the Council require the Panel to formally notify all cabinet members of the proposed appointment. The Rules permit any cabinet member with a well-founded objection to oppose the appointment.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified