

Wiltshire Council

Council

24 July 2024

Appointment of Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

1. To seek confirmation from Council to appoint the preferred candidate named in the supplementary report (to follow) as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of Wiltshire Council.
2. To confirm the designation of the statutory posts of Returning Officer (RO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Wiltshire Council to the post of Chief Executive and seek confirmation from Council to appoint the preferred candidate named in the supplementary report (to follow) to these posts.
3. To seek approval from Council for the interim arrangements outlined in the supplementary report until the new permanent Chief Executive takes up their position.

Appointment of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

4. Following the resignation of the current postholder, and in line with the constitution, the Officer Appointments Committee have undertaken a comprehensive assessment and selection process for the post of Chief Executive Officer.
5. The Officer Appointment Committee will conduct final interviews on Wednesday 17 July 2024 and select a preferred candidate for the role.
6. In line with the Constitution every Cabinet Member will be notified of the proposed appointments and of their right of objection.
7. On the basis that no objections have been received the Officer Appointment Committee recommend Council to appoint the candidate named in the supplementary report (to follow) as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of Wiltshire Council.

Appointment of Returning Officer / Electoral Registration Officer

8. The Representation of the People Act 1985 Section 35 requires the council to appoint an officer of the council to be the Returning Officer in local elections.
9. Although the Returning Officer is an officer of the council, the role holds personal responsibilities independent and separate from the holder's duties as an employee of the council.

10. At Wiltshire Council the statutory roles of Returning Officer (RO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) are designated to the Chief Executive of the council and, accordingly, it is recommended that Council confirms the preferred candidate as the Returning Officer (RO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Wiltshire Council.

Interim arrangements

11. As the current postholder leaves the council on 18 August 2024, if the preferred candidate is unable to commence in the role immediately it is proposed that the interim arrangements, outlined in the supplementary report (to follow), be implemented.

Proposal

12. That Council:

- a. Appoints the candidate named in the supplementary report as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of Wiltshire Council.
- b. Designates the candidate named in the supplementary report as the Returning Officer (RO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Wiltshire Council.
- c. Approves the interim arrangements outlined in the supplementary report (if applicable).

Councillor Richard Clewer
Chairman of the Officer Appointments Committee

Report author - Tamsin Kielb, Director HR&OD