

# NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY

## SHADOW AUTHORITY MEETING

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### Report of the Chair of the Senior Appointments Committee

Report Title	Appointment of the Statutory Officers for the new Senior Leadership Team of North Northamptonshire Council
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#### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Shadow Authority the permanent appointment of the Senior and Statutory Officer roles for the new leadership team for the North Northamptonshire Council.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 That the following be confirmed as Directors and designated statutory officers for the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority and the North Northamptonshire Council:

- Janice Gotts as Director of Finance and Statutory Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer); to be appointed to a salary of £135,000 (*within the advertised grade of £130,000 - £140,000*)
- Adele Wylie as Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Statutory Monitoring Officer; to be appointed to a salary of £110,000 (*within the advertised grade of £110,000 - £115,000*)
- David Watts as Director of Adult Social Service and Statutory DASS officer; to be appointed to a salary of £135,000 (*within the advertised grade of £130,000 - £140,000*)
- Cathi Hadley as Shared Director of Children's Services and Statutory DCS (joint with West Northamptonshire Council); to be appointed to a salary of £150,000 (*within the advertised grade of £145,000 - £155,000*).

*(Reason for Recommendations – The appointment of Statutory officers is for decision by the Shadow Authority. In line with government guidance and the importance of transparency and of objective justification for senior salaries the basis for the recommended salary is set out in this paper.)*

- 2.2 That recommendations be brought to the Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September regarding the continuance of interim statutory officers (see section 6 of this report) should the Council agree to the permanent appointment recommendations in 2.1 above.

### **3. Report Background**

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- 3.1 The appointment of the senior leadership team is a significant step towards establishing the new North Northamptonshire Council. It will enable Members, supported by the recently appointed permanent Chief Executive, Rob Bridge, to drive forward what is needed to successfully transition to the new unitary authority on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The new Chief Executive will commence in his role on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.
- 3.2 The Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020 specifies that, 'each shadow authority must before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 appoint a person to become, on and after that date: i) the Council's Monitoring Officer; ii) the council's Chief Finance Officer; and iii) the council's Head of Paid Service'.
- 3.3 Prior to the formation of the Senior Appointments Committee and the Senior Appointments Task and Finish group in June 2020, Council Leaders agreed that these three statutory roles, along with some further leadership roles in Adults and Children's social care, should be recruited to for the North Northamptonshire Council:-
- Chief Executive; incorporating Head of Paid Service statutory designation;
  - Director of Finance; incorporating Chief Finance Officer / S151(CFO) statutory designation;
  - Director of Legal and Democratic Services; incorporating the Monitoring Officer statutory designation;
  - Director of Adult Social Service; incorporating the DASS statutory designation;
  - A shared Director of Children's Services; incorporating the DCS statutory designation to sit across both unitary authorities; with oversight of the Children's Trust.
- 3.4 To ensure that we make the best appointments possible and ensure compliance with the Structural Changes Order (2020) to appoint statutory designations before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020; leaders agreed to launch a national recruitment campaign in May 2020.
- 3.5 This campaign was developed by Leaders in conjunction with the Future Northants HR Programme and Penna, our external executive search partner. This resulted in a national advertisement campaign "Shaping our future" being launched in the Municipal Journal and online throughout the months of May and June. The Shadow Leader also positively encouraged internal employees to apply.
- 3.6 A benchmarking exercise was undertaken to agree salary ranges for these senior roles; based on roles in comparable Unitary councils, both in terms of the size and complexity of services delivered.

- 3.7 The Shadow Senior Appointments Committee and Task and Finish Group was established following the first Shadow Council meeting in June 2020. The selection strategy and appointment process was developed in the Task and Finish Group meetings during June. The Shadow Senior Appointments Committee agreed a series of recommendations on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- 3.8 A transparent and inclusive selection approach was agreed; with the aim of involving as many Councillors and stakeholders as possible in these key appointment decisions. To enable this wider involvement of councillors in the decision making, the Senior Appointments Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> July established a main appointment interview panel (as sub-committees under the constitution) and Member panels to advise together with the partner panels. The interview panels conducted the interviews confidentially during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September 2020.

The interview panels were each led by a member of the Shadow Executive and included over 36 different members from across the Shadow Council in the multiple panels for each role. We were also very grateful for the positive involvement of stakeholders from our partners in Health, Police and the voluntary sector. Their valuable involvement and feedback gave the interview panels a different perspective on candidates and allowed the selection to take into account feedback on each candidate's approach to working with partners.

Our new Chief Executive, Rob Bridge, was also able to take part in the interviews as a senior adviser to the main panels; supporting the shaping of North Northamptonshire's new leadership team.

- 3.9 The appointment panels received a briefing and training on recruitment and selection prior to the interviews by the Local Government Association during July and August 2020.

#### **4. Leadership Appointments – Panels and Recommended Appointments**

##### **4.1 Recommended Appointment of Director of Finance (CFO/ S151)**

The main appointment panel was chaired by Cllr Jelley; who was joined by Cllr Greenwood- Smith, Cllr Lawman, Cllr Bunday and Cllr Elliston.

The appointment panel received a total of 10 applications for this recruitment campaign and longlisted 7 candidates to undertake the technical assessment process. 5 candidates were shortlisted and interviewed on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

The conclusion of the main appointment panel is to recommend the appointment of Janice Gotts as North Northamptonshire's permanent Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer.

Janice is currently the Deputy City Treasurer (Deputy s151 Officer) at Manchester City Council. Janice brings with her a wealth of experience in the public sector, working for over 30 years in both local government and the NHS. She has in-depth knowledge of local government finance and service

delivery; as well as the political environment and regulatory framework within which it operates.

#### **4.2 Recommended Appointment of Director of Legal and Democratic Services (MO)**

The main appointment panel was chaired by Cllr David Jenney; who was joined by Cllr Waters, Cllr Partridge-Underwood, Cllr Smithers and Cllr Pengelly.

The appointment panel received a total of 8 applications from this recruitment campaign and longlisted 6 candidates to undertake the technical the assessment process. 3 candidates were shortlisted and interviewed on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.

The conclusion of the main appointment panel is to recommend the appointment of Adele Wylie as North Northamptonshire's permanent Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer.

Adele is currently the Director of Governance & Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer for Melton Borough Council. She brings a wide range of management and leadership experience; as well as playing a lead role in transforming services.

#### **4.3 Recommended Appointment of Director of Adult Social Services (DASS)**

The main appointment panel was chaired by Cllr Griffiths; who was joined by Cllr Howell, Cllr Skittrall, Cllr Brackenbury and Cllr Lee.

The appointment panel received a total of 17 applications from this recruitment campaign and longlisted 9 candidates to undertake the technical the assessment process. 4 candidates were shortlisted and interviewed on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

The conclusion of the main appointment panel is to recommend the appointment of David Watts as North Northamptonshire's permanent Director of Adult Services (DASS).

David is currently the Director of Adult Services (DASS) for the City of Wolverhampton Council. He is an experienced director in local government, with a national profile; as well as a qualified social worker with over 20 years' service in adult social care.

#### **4.4 Recommended Joint Appointment of Director of Children's Services (DCS)**

This role has been agreed by North and West Northamptonshire Councils as a joint role and a joint appointment. The agreed employer for this shared role is North Northamptonshire Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

The joint appointment panel comprised:

Cllr Wendy Brackenbury, Cllr Edwards and Cllr McGhee for the North Shadow Authority; and Cllr Golby, Cllr Baker and Cllr Birch for the West Shadow Authority.

The appointment panel received a total of 5 applications from this recruitment campaign and longlisted 2 candidates to undertake the technical assessment process. 1 candidate was shortlisted and interviewed on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The conclusion of the joint appointment panel is to recommend the appointment of Cathi Hadley as the shared Director of Children's Services for the North and West Northamptonshire Councils; and the shared DCS Statutory Officer designation for both councils.

Cathi is currently the Director of Children's Services/DCS for Northamptonshire County Council. Cathi is a highly experienced senior leader who has successfully undertaken roles in both the private and the public sector. Ensuring the delivery of quality services for children and families has been a core driver throughout her career.

## **5. Issues and Choices**

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- 5.1 In accordance with part F of the Shadow Authority's Constitution, the Staff Employment Procedure Rules the recommendation for each of the above appointments was sent in confidence to each member of the Shadow Executive Committee in order to establish if any member of the Shadow Executive Committee has any objection to the proposed appointment. No objections from the Leader, on behalf of the Shadow Executive Committee have been raised to this recommendation.

Subject to ratification by the Shadow Authority, a start date will be confirmed with the candidates; taking into account their notice obligations.

## **6. Interim Statutory Officers**

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- 6.1 At the inaugural meeting of the shadow authority on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the Shadow Council appointed three interim statutory officers as per the requirements set out in the Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020.

These roles are necessary for the operation of the Shadow Council until the permanent appointments are made, which is the subject of this report. It is expected that should the Shadow Council agree to the appointments in 2.1 contractual starting dates would need to be agreed and interim statutory roles would be needed for a continued period.

The current interim officers for the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer have indicated that they wish to end their interim designations so recommendations will be made to the Shadow Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> to enable these designations to continue.

The interim roles and colleagues undertaking them have been critical in the progress made to date and we are very grateful for colleagues having taken on these roles.

## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **7.1 Policy**

The appointment of Statutory Officers by 31 December 2020 is a requirement that is laid down in the Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020.

### **7.2 Resources and Risk**

The appointment of Statutory Officers will enable a safe and legal transition from the shadow authority to the Unitary Council in 2021.

### **7.3 Legal**

The appointments to the Statutory Officer designations ensures compliance with the Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020.

### **7.4 Equality and Health**

The appointment process followed a fair and transparent process. Eligible candidates were invited to apply to a national and open recruitment campaign.

#### **Report Author:**

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(On behalf of Cllr Martin Griffiths, the chair of Shadow Senior Appointments  
Committee)**