

## Annual Council

North Northamptonshire Council

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023

At 6:00 pm in the Council Chamber, The Cube, George Street, Corby.

**Present: -**

**Members:**

Councillors Larry Henson (Chair), Barbara Jenney, Jean Addison, Tim Allebone, Ross Armour, Paul Bell, Matt Binley, Jennie Bone, David Brackenbury, Wendy Brackenbury, Cedwien Brown, Scott Brown, Leanne Buckingham, Lyn Buckingham, Lloyd Bunday, Jon-Paul Carr, Robin Carter, Melanie Coleman, William Colquhoun, John Currall, Alison Dalziel, Mark Dearing, Dez Dell, Scott Edwards, Jonathan Ekins, Emily Fedorowycz, Jim Hakewill, Clive Hallam, Ken Harrington, Helen Harrison, Helen Howell, David Howes, Philip Irwin, Bert Jackson, Ian Jelley, Matt Keane, King Lawal, Graham Lawman, Lora Lawman, Anne Lee, Richard Levell, Paul Marks, Dorothy Maxwell, Peter McEwan, John McGhee, Zoe McGhee, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Macaulay Nichol, Steven North, Jan O'Hara, Anup Pandey, Tom Partridge-Underwood, Harriet Pentland, Roger Powell, Elliot Prentice, Simon Rielly, Russell Roberts, Mark Rowley, Jason Smithers, Chris Smith-Haynes, Joseph Smyth, Mike Tebbutt, Sarah Tubbs, Michael Tye, Malcolm Ward, Malcolm Waters, Keli Watts, Andrew Weatherill, Lee Wilkes.

**Officers in Attendance:**

Rob Bridge (Chief Executive), Adele Wylie (Director of Customer and Governance/Monitoring Officer), Paul Goult (Democratic Services Manager) and Ben Smith (Head of Democratic Services).

*Prior to commencing the formal business of the meeting, the Chair (Councillor Larry Henson) thanked members and officers for their support during his term of office and highlighted some of the key events attended on behalf of the Council.*

### **227. Election of Chair of North Northamptonshire Council**

Nominations were sought for the office of Chair of North Northamptonshire Council for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

Councillor Gill Mercer MOVED the nomination of Councillor Barbara Jenney. Councillor Jon-Paul Carr SECONDED the nomination. No other nominations had been received.

**RESOLVED that: -**

Councillor Barbara Jenney be elected as Chair of North Northamptonshire Council for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

## **228. Appointment of Vice Chair of North Northamptonshire Council**

Nominations were sought for the office of Vice Chair of North Northamptonshire Council for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

Councillor Philip Irwin MOVED the nomination of Councillor Lora Lawman. Councillor Wendy Brackenbury SECONDED the nomination. No other nominations had been received.

### **RESOLVED that: -**

Councillor Lora Lawman be appointed as Vice Chair of North Northamptonshire Council for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

## **229. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Valerie Anslow, Charlie Best, Martin Griffiths, Mark Pengelly, David Sims, Geoff Shacklock and Kevin Watt.

## **230. Minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 had been circulated.

Councillor Barbara Jenney MOVED that the minutes be agreed. Councillor Andy Mercer SECONDED.

### **RESOLVED that: -**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be agreed.

## **231. Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were recorded.

## **232. Chair's Announcements**

The Chair introduced two guest speakers from a local charity Encompass, who provided a brief presentation to members on the work of the charity. The Chair was keen to highlight the work of the organisation in assisting those facing poverty, homelessness and addiction, and encouraged members to raise their awareness of the important role the charity played across North Northamptonshire.

## **233. Political Group Leadership**

Council received a report confirming the leadership of the recognised political groups for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

- *Leader of the Conservative Group – Councillor Jason Smithers*
- *Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group – Councillor Helen Howell*
- *Leader of the Labour Group – Councillor Matt Keane*
- *Deputy Leader of the Labour Group – Councillor Leanne Buckingham*
- *Leader of the Green Alliance Group – Councillor Emily Fedorowycz*
- *Deputy Leader of the Green Alliance Group – Councillor Jim Hakewill*

### **RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) The leadership arrangements of the recognised political groups for the Municipal Year 2023/24 be noted.

### **234. Leader's Address to Council**

Councillor Smithers (Leader of the Council) addressed Council. The Leader summarised key challenges faced by the Council over the previous 12-months together with achievements. The Leader praised the Council's staff on their dedication and hard work and thanked the outgoing Chief Executive, Rob Bridge, for his leadership during the first two years of the new council.

Councillor Matt Keane (Leader of the Labour Group) and Councillor Emily Fedorowycz (Leader of the Green Alliance) also addressed Council.

### **235. Confirmation of Executive Appointments**

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Jason Smithers) informed Council of the Executive appointments for 2023/24 which remained unchanged from the previous year.

Councillor Helen Howell	<i>Deputy Leader/Sport, Leisure, Culture &amp; Tourism</i>
Councillor Lloyd Bunday	<i>Finance &amp; Transformation</i>
Councillor Harriet Pentland	<i>Climate &amp; Green Environment</i>
Councillor Helen Harrison	<i>Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing</i>
Councillor David Brackenbury	<i>Growth &amp; Regeneration</i>
Councillor Graham Lawman	<i>Highways, Travel &amp; Assets</i>
Councillor Scott Edwards	<i>Children, Families, Education &amp; Skills</i>
Councillor Matt Binley	<i>Housing, Communities &amp; Levelling-Up</i>
Councillor David Howes	<i>Rural Communities &amp; Localism</i>

### **236. Committee Membership and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs**

Full Council was requested to confirm the membership of the Council's committees and bodies, where it was the responsibility of Full Council to make such appointments. Details of nominations received from the recognised political groups had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer had delegated authority, upon receiving a request from a recognised political group, to authorise in-year changes to membership.

Councillor Helen Harrison MOVED and Councillor Helen Howell SECONDED recommendations (a), (b) & (d) as detailed in the report, to agree the political proportionality applied as per Appendix A, to note the respective group nominations to committees as contained in Appendix B, and to note the delegation of the Monitoring Officer.

#### **RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) The proportionality rules applied be noted (as detailed in Appendix A);
- (ii) The appointments to committees made by the recognised political groups be noted (as detailed in Appendix B)
- (iii) The delegated authority granted to the Monitoring Officer to make any in-year changes to the membership of committees on behalf of the Council, in consultation with the respective leaders of the recognised political groups, be noted.

Nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of committees in the gift of Full Council had been sought. Details of the nominations received had been circulated.

Councillor Andy Mercer MOVED, and Councillor Emily Fedorowycz SECONDED the uncontested nominations only as detailed in the report and appendices.

#### **RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) The appointments to the Chair and Vice Chair positions as detailed below be agreed -

Vice Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee	<i>Councillor Lora Lawman</i>
Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee	<i>Councillor King Lawal</i>
Chair of the Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee	<i>Councillor Gill Mercer</i>
Vice Chair of the Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee	<i>Councillor Kevin Watt</i>
Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board	<i>Councillor Gill Mercer</i>
Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board	<i>Councillor King Lawal</i>
Chair of the Licensing and Appeals Committee	<i>Councillor Jonathan Ekins</i>
Vice Chair of the Licensing and Appeals Committee	<i>Councillor Jennie Bone</i>
Chair of Employment Committee	<i>Councillor Lora Lawman</i>
Vice Chair of the Employment Committee	<i>Councillor John Currall</i>
Chair of the Democracy and Standards Committee	<i>Councillor Andy Mercer</i>
Vice Chair of the Democracy and Standards Committee	<i>Councillor Ian Jelley</i>
Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee	<i>Councillor Andrew Weatherill</i>
Vice Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee	<i>Councillor Jonathan Ekins</i>
Chair of the Planning Committee (North)	<i>Councillor Mark Rowley</i>
Vice Chair of the Planning Committee (North)	<i>Councillor Kevin Watt</i>
Chair of the Planning Committee (South)	<i>Councillor Jennie Bone</i>
Vice Chair of the Planning Committee (South)	<i>Councillor Lee Wilkes</i>
Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board	<i>Councillor Helen Harrison</i>

For the position of Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee two nominations had been received. Councillor Keane MOVED and Councillor John McGhee SECONDED the nomination of Councillor Lyn Buckingham. Councillor Fedorowycz MOVED and Councillor Dell SECONDED the nomination of Councillor Hakewill.

**RESOLVED that: -**

(i) Councillor Lyn Buckingham be elected as Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. For the position of Vice Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee two nominations had been received. Councillor Binley MOVED and Councillor Nichol SECONDED the nomination of Councillor Larry Henson. Councillor Armour MOVED and Councillor Zoe McGhee SECONDED the nomination of Councillor John McGhee.

**RESOLVED that: -**

(i) Councillor Larry Henson be appointed as Vice Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

**237. Outside Bodies**

The Monitoring Officer introduced this item, which provided details of the proposed Outside Bodies appointments for 2023/24. The proposed list of both Strategic and Community appointments had been formulated following a review by Scrutiny members. Strategic appointments were in the gift of the Executive, Community appointments were the responsibility of Full Council. Nominations for the Community appointments had been sought and were detailed in the report.

An addendum indicating some amendments to Outside Bodies representation had been circulated to members.

Under this item, Councillor Hakewill queried whether Councillor Pengelly could be reinstated as the Council's representative on APSE for 2023/24. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that following discussion with APSE, the Council were able to appoint two representatives and Councillor Pengelly would be added. This was duly noted.

An addendum indicating some amendments to Outside Bodies representation had been circulated to members.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) Council notes the Strategic Outside Bodies representation detailed in the report and addendum; and
- (ii) Council notes the Community Outside Bodies representation detailed in the report and addendum (as amended).

**238. Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service Designation – Interim Appointment**

Council received a report recommending the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The Chief Executive (Rob Bridge) resigned his position on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and would be leaving the employment of NNC on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

In order to ensure continuity in leadership and strategic direction, Council agreed an interim recruitment process and timeframe on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This comprised of inviting expressions of interest from interested persons from within the Corporate Leadership Team and a panel interview, undertaken by the following members:

- Councillor Jason Smithers (Leader of the Council) (Chair)
- Councillor Helen Howell (Deputy Leader)
- Councillor Barbara Jenney (Chair of the Employment Committee)
- Councillor John McGhee (Leader of the Labour Group)

Interviews took place at the Corby Cube on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Candidates were assessed by the panel through a range of structured questions, based on the requirements of the person specification for the role.

In accordance with the Local Authorities' (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 as set out in the Council's Constitution (Part 8.4, Officer Employment Procedure Rules) the name of the person to be offered the appointment was sent to all Executive Members asking for any justified objections to the making of an offer to be submitted to the Assistant Director of Human Resources. No objections were received.

A conditional offer had been made to the successful candidate, subject to the approval of Full Council.

The recommendations were **MOVED** by Councillor Helen Howell and **SECONDED** by Councillor John McGhee.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) George Candler be appointed as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023; and
- (ii) That a salary of £174,475 would be paid for the duration of the interim appointment, in accordance with the Council's agreed Pay Policy.

**239. Urgent Items**

There were no Urgent Items on this occasion.

**240. Close of Meeting**

Meeting closed at 7:22 pm.

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Council**

At 6.00 pm on Thursday 25th May, 2023 in the  
Council Chamber, The Cube, George St, Corby NN17 1QG

### **Present:-**

#### Members

Councillor Larry Henson (Chair)	Councillor Barbara Jenney
Councillor Jean Addison	Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Tim Allebone	Councillor Lora Lawman
Councillor Ross Armour	Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Paul Bell	Councillor Richard Levell
Councillor Matt Binley	Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor Jennie Bone	Councillor Dorothy Maxwell
Councillor David Brackenbury	Councillor Peter McEwan
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury	Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Cedwien Brown	Councillor Zoe McGhee
Councillor Scott Brown	Councillor Andy Mercer
Councillor Leanne Buckingham	Councillor Gill Mercer
Councillor Lyn Buckingham	Councillor Macaulay Nichol
Councillor Lloyd Bunday	Councillor Steven North
Councillor Jon-Paul Carr	Councillor Jan O'Hara
Councillor Robin Carter	Councillor Dr Anup Pandey
Councillor William Colquhoun	Councillor Tom Partridge-Underwood
Councillor John Currall	Councillor Harriet Pentland
Councillor Alison Dalziel	Councillor Roger Powell
Councillor Mark Dearing	Councillor Elliot Prentice
Councillor Dez Dell	Councillor Simon Rielly
Councillor Scott Edwards	Councillor Russell Roberts
Councillor Jonathan Ekins	Councillor Mark Rowley
Councillor Emily Fedorowycz	Councillor Jason Smithers
Councillor Jim Hakewill	Councillor Chris Smith-Haynes
Councillor Clive Hallam	Councillor Joseph John Smyth
Councillor Ken Harrington	Councillor Mike Tebbutt
Councillor Helen Harrison	Councillor Sarah Tubbs
Councillor Helen Howell	Councillor Michael Tye
Councillor David Howes	Councillor Malcolm Ward
Councillor Philip Irwin	Councillor Malcolm Waters
Councillor Bert Jackson	Councillor Andrew Weatherill
Councillor Ian Jelley	Councillor Lee Wilkes
Councillor Matt Keane	Councillor Keli Watts
Councillor King Lawal	

#### Officers

Also in attendance – Councillor

Nominations were sought for the office of Chair of North Northamptonshire Council for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

Councillor Gill Mercer MOVED the nomination of Councillor Barbara Jenney. Councillor Jon-Paul Carr SECONDED the nomination. No other nominations had been received.

**RESOLVED that: -**

Councillor Barbara Jenney be elected as Chair of North Northamptonshire Council for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

**228 Appointment of Vice Chair of North Northamptonshire Council**

Nominations were sought for the office of Vice Chair of North Northamptonshire Council for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

Councillor Philip Irwin MOVED the nomination of Councillor Lora Lawman. Councillor Wendy Brackenbury SECONDED the nomination. No other nominations had been received.

**RESOLVED that: -**

Councillor Lora Lawman be appointed as Vice Chair of North Northamptonshire Council for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

**229 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Valerie Anslow, Charlie Best, Martin Griffiths, Mark Pengelly, David Sims, Geoff Shacklock and Kevin Watt.

**230 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest on this occasion.

**231 Minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2023**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 had been circulated.

Councillor Barbara Jenney MOVED that the minutes be agreed. Councillor Andy Mercer SECONDED.

**RESOLVED that: -**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be agreed.

**232 Chair's Announcements**

The Chair introduced two guest speakers from a local charity Encompass, who provided a brief presentation to members on the work of the charity. The Chair was keen to highlight the work of the organisation in assisting those facing poverty, homelessness and addiction, and encouraged members to raise their awareness of the important role the charity played across North Northamptonshire.

## 233 Political Group Leadership

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- *Leader of the Conservative Group – Councillor Jason Smithers*
- *Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group – Councillor Helen Howell*
- *Leader of the Labour Group – Councillor Matt Keane*
- *Deputy Leader of the Labour Group – Councillor Leanne Buckingham*
- *Leader of the Green Alliance Group – Councillor Emily Fedorowycz*
- *Deputy Leader of the Green Alliance Group – Councillor Jim Hakewill*

### RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The leadership arrangements of the recognised political groups for the Municipal Year 2023/24 be noted.

## 234 Leader's Address to Council

Councillor Smithers (Leader of the Council) addressed Council. The Leader summarised key challenges faced by the Council over the previous 12-months together with achievements. The Leader praised the Council's staff on their dedication and hard work and thanked the outgoing Chief Executive, Rob Bridge, for his leadership during the first two years of the new council.

Councillor Matt Keane (Leader of the Labour Group) and Councillor Emily Fedorowycz (Leader of the Green Alliance) also addressed Council.

## 235 Confirmation of Executive Appointments

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Jason Smithers) informed Council of the Executive appointments for 2023/24 which remained unchanged from the previous year.

Councillor Helen Howell	<i>Deputy Leader/Sport, Leisure, Culture &amp; Tourism</i>
Councillor Lloyd Bunday	<i>Finance &amp; Transformation</i>
Councillor Harriet Pentland	<i>Climate &amp; Green Environment</i>
Councillor Helen Harrison	<i>Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing</i>
Councillor David Brackenbury	<i>Growth &amp; Regeneration</i>
Councillor Graham Lawman	<i>Highways, Travel &amp; Assets</i>
Councillor Scott Edwards	<i>Children, Families, Education &amp; Skills</i>
Councillor Matt Binley	<i>Housing, Communities &amp; Levelling-Up</i>
Councillor David Howes	<i>Rural Communities &amp; Localism</i>



**236 Committee Membership and Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs of Committees**

Full Council was requested to confirm the membership of the Council’s committees and bodies, where it was the responsibility of Full Council to make such appointments. Details of nominations received from the recognised political groups had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer had delegated authority, upon receiving a request from a recognised political group, to authorise in-year changes to membership.

Councillor Helen Harrison MOVED and Councillor Helen Howell SECONDED recommendations (a), (b) & (d) as detailed in the report, to agree the political proportionality applied as per Appendix A, to note the respective group nominations to committees as contained in Appendix B, and to note the delegation of the Monitoring Officer.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) The proportionality rules applied be noted (as detailed in Appendix A);
- (ii) The appointments to committees made by the recognised political groups be noted (as detailed in Appendix B)
- (iii) The delegated authority granted to the Monitoring Officer to make any in-year changes to the membership of committees on behalf of the Council, in consultation with the respective leaders of the recognised political groups, be noted.

Nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of committees in the gift of Full Council had been sought. Details of the nominations received had been circulated.

Councillor Andy Mercer MOVED, and Councillor Emily Fedorowycz SECONDED the uncontested nominations only as detailed in the report and appendices.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) The appointments to the Chair and Vice Chair positions as detailed below be agreed -

Vice Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee	<i>Councillor Lora Lawman</i>
Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee	<i>Councillor King Lawal</i>
Chair of the Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee	<i>Councillor Gill Mercer</i>
Vice Chair of the Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee	<i>Councillor Kevin Watt</i>
Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board	<i>Councillor Gill Mercer</i>
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Chair of the Planning Committee (North)	<i>Councillor Mark Rowley</i>
Vice Chair of the Planning Committee (North)	<i>Councillor Kevin Watt</i>
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Vice Chair of the Planning Committee (South)	<i>Councillor Lee Wilkes</i>
Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board	<i>Councillor Helen Harrison</i>

For the position of Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee two nominations had been received. Councillor Keane MOVED and Councillor John McGhee SECONDED the nomination of Councillor Lyn Buckingham. Councillor Fedorowycz MOVED and Councillor Dell SECONDED the nomination of Councillor Hakewill.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) Councillor Lyn Buckingham be elected as Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

For the position of Vice Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee two nominations had been received. Councillor Binley MOVED and Councillor Nichol SECONDED the nomination of Councillor Larry Henson. Councillor Armour MOVED and Councillor Zoe McGhee SECONDED the nomination of Councillor John McGhee.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) Councillor Larry Henson be appointed as Vice Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

**237 Outside Bodies**

The Monitoring Officer introduced this item, which provided details of the proposed Outside Bodies appointments for 2023/24. The proposed list of both Strategic and Community appointments had been formulated following a review by Scrutiny members. Strategic appointments were in the gift of the Executive, Community appointments were the responsibility of Full Council. Nominations for the Community appointments had been sought and were detailed in the report.

An addendum indicating some amendments to Outside Bodies representation had been circulated to members.

Under this item, Councillor Hakewill queried whether Councillor Pengelly could be reinstated as the Council's representative on APSE for 2023/24. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that following discussion with APSE, the Council were able to appoint two representatives and Councillor Pengelly would be added. This was duly noted.

An addendum indicating some amendments to Outside Bodies representation had been circulated to members.

**RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) Council notes the Strategic Outside Bodies representation detailed in the report and addendum; and
- (ii) Council notes the Community Outside Bodies representation detailed in the report and addendum (as amended).

## 238 Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service Designation - Interim Appointment

Council received a report recommending the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The Chief Executive (Rob Bridge) resigned his position on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and would be leaving the employment of NNC on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

In order to ensure continuity in leadership and strategic direction, Council agreed an interim recruitment process and timeframe on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This comprised of inviting expressions of interest from interested persons from within the Corporate Leadership Team and a panel interview, undertaken by the following members:

- Councillor Jason Smithers (Leader of the Council) (Chair)
- Councillor Helen Howell (Deputy Leader)
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Interviews took place at the Corby Cube on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Candidates were assessed by the panel through a range of structured questions, based on the requirements of the person specification for the role.

In accordance with the Local Authorities' (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 as set out in the Council's Constitution (Part 8.4, Officer Employment Procedure Rules) the name of the person to be offered the appointment was sent to all Executive Members asking for any justified objections to the making of an offer to be submitted to the Assistant Director of Human Resources. No objections were received.

A conditional offer had been made to the successful candidate, subject to the approval of Full Council.

The recommendations were **MOVED** by Councillor Helen Howell and **SECONDED** by Councillor John McGhee.

### **RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) George Candler be appointed as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023; and
- (ii) That a salary of £174,475 would be paid for the duration of the interim appointment, in accordance with the Council's agreed Pay Policy.

## 239 Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 7:22 pm.

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Chair

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Date

The meeting closed at 7.22 pm