

Personnel Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2016

Present

Councillor Flanagan- In the Chair
Councillors Leese, S Murphy, S Newman, B Priest and Rahman

PE/16/24 Minutes

Decision

To agree the minutes of the meetings of 14 September 2016 as a correct record.

PE/16/25 Recruitment of the Chief Executive

The Committee considered a report of the City Solicitor which explained that the current Chief Executive has given notice of his intention to retire in spring 2017. The report sought approval of the approach to recruitment of a new Chief Executive of Manchester City Council.

The report summarised Sir Howard's contribution to Manchester City Council and Manchester since the start of his career with the Council in 1971. His achievements over the years included securing Manchester as the host of the 2002 Commonwealth games, overseeing the establishment of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and his central role in the regeneration and economic growth of the city.

The Council's Constitution provides that the appointment of the Chief Executive, and salary offered to the appointee is a Council function. This Committee was responsible for agreeing the process for appointing a new Chief Executive. The report proposed to appoint an Executive Search Company with expertise in senior local government recruitment to assist the Council to identify suitable candidates to apply for the role and to manage all aspects of the recruitment process. The Committee was requested to delegate authority to the City Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive (People, Policy and Reform) in consultation with the Leader and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, supported by professional advice from officers with knowledge and experience of senior recruitment in local government and the wider public sector. The Committee was also asked to appoint the panel that would progress the recruitment process.

Comments from UNISON and Unite were circulated at the meeting along with the response from Human Resources. In response to the comments from the unions, the Leader advised that a wide range of stakeholders would be included in the recruitment process.

Decision

1. To note the retirement of the Chief Executive, Sir Howard Bernstein, in spring 2017.

2. To delegate authority to the Leader of the Council to agree the retirement date with the Chief Executive.
3. To delegate authority to the City Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive (People, Policy and Reform), in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, to select an Executive Search Company for the post of Chief Executive.
4. To appoint councillors Flanagan, Leese, S Murphy, S Newman and B Priest to the Appointment Sub Committee to progress the recruitment and appointment to the post of Chief Executive.
5. To agree that the post of Chief Executive will be recruited to at a salary on a scale commensurate with the responsibilities of the role which will be subject to independent objective advice and evaluation.