

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Personnel Committee – 22 December 2017

Subject: Recruitment of City Solicitor

Report of: The Chief Executive

Purpose of the report

To note the resignation of the current City Solicitor and the proposed recruitment process for the post.

Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the resignation of the City Solicitor with effect from 13 December 2017.
 2. Recognise the contribution of the current City Solicitor in relation to her commitment to the Council and also her contribution to the establishment of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
 3. Establish a subcommittee to act as an appointment panel for a new City Solicitor.
 4. To delegate authority to the Director of HROD to progress all aspects of the recruitment process up to the need to call a meeting of the Panel, including:
 - manage the recruitment process;
 - agree the longlist; and
 - agree the shortlist.
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Wards affected: All

Financial considerations

The cost of this post is fully provided for within existing budgets.

Contact Officers:

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers listed on the previous page.

- Personnel Committee 13th February 2013 – City Solicitor

Implications for:

Anti Poverty
No

Equal Opportunities
Yes

Environment
No

Employment
Yes

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The post of City Solicitor is responsible for providing Manchester City Council, Salford City Council and Rochdale Council with a comprehensive legal service. Legal services are also provided to various other external clients including RSL's and schools. The post holder is accountable to professional bodies and the courts for the conduct of the legal service.
- 1.2 In addition the post has overall responsibility for Democratic Services which supports the delivery of the governance framework within which the Council must operate, Electoral Services and the Registration and Coroner's Services.
- 1.3 The Monitoring Officer is a statutory appointment under the provisions of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The role is assigned to the City Solicitor under the provisions of the City Council's Constitution, (Article 12 and the Scheme of Delegation).
- 1.4 The post of City Solicitor is a politically-restricted "statutory" chief officer post, reporting directly to the Chief Executive.

2.0 Proposals

- 2.1 The current City Solicitor, Liz Treacy has been an employee for over 27 years and held the post of City Solicitor for five years. Liz has made a significant contribution to the City, is a highly valued and respected senior manager and has made the fullest contribution to the strategic direction of the Council. Liz has provided leadership of a complex portfolio and discharged these functions to a high standard demonstrating personal and professional values, dedication and commitment. In addition Liz has undertaken the additional responsibility of monitoring officer for the Combined Authority.
- 2.2 Liz has discharged the Legal and Democratic functions to a very high standard with specific contributions being large scale strategic regeneration projects across the City, the creation of the constitutional arrangements for the Combined Authority and the valuable contribution to the re-shaping of social policies across a broad range of issues to enable the reform of public services to improve outcomes for the City.
- 2.3 Liz will leave the Council's employment in March 2018. Subject to the agreement of the Committee, a recruitment process will be undertaken to recruit a replacement to the role. It should be noted that the future postholder will no longer be monitoring officer for the Combined Authority.
- 2.4 Given the significance of the role both in terms of Manchester and with partners Committee is asked to approve an act up of the current Deputy City Solicitor into the post of City Solicitor whilst the role is out to recruitment.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 The current City Solicitor is commended for her service and commitment to the Council. The proposed recruitment process will begin immediately in the New Year and interim arrangements will be applied with immediate effect, aimed at providing continuity and stability of services.

4.0 Comments from the Director of HR/OD

4.1 I have been involved with the development of the proposals set out within this report and agree with the recommendations made. The proposals have been developed to ensure the relevant and appropriate leadership capacity is in place.

5.0 Trade Union Comments

To follow.