

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Council – 4 September 2024

Subject: Appointment of Interim Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service

Report of: The Director of HROD & Transformation and the City Solicitor

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Council for the appointment of Eamonn Boylan as interim Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service, with effect from 9 September 2024. It also requests that Eamonn Boylan is appointed as Manchester's Electoral Registration Officer, Returning Officer for the elections of councillors, and Returning Officer for the election of a GMCA mayor, on an interim basis, with effect from 9 September 2024

Recommendations

The Council is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the appointment of Eamonn Boylan to the position of Chief Executive of Manchester City Council, on an interim basis, with effect from 9 September 2024.
 - (2) Approve the designation of Eamonn Boylan as Head of Paid Service of Manchester City Council under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, on an interim basis, with effect from 9 September 2024.
 - (3) Appoint Eamonn Boylan as the Electoral Registration Officer for Manchester, on an interim basis, with effect from 9 September 2024.
 - (4) Appoint Eamonn Boylan as the Returning Officer for the elections of councillors of the district of Manchester and for elections of councillors of parishes within the district, on an interim basis, with effect from 9 September 2024.
 - (5) Appoint Eamonn Boylan as the Returning Officer for the district of Manchester for the election of a Greater Manchester Combined Authority mayor, on an interim basis, with effect from 9 September 2024.
 - (6) Agree that the above interim appointments shall terminate immediately upon a permanent Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service taking up their position with the Council.
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Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment -the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city	Our Interim Chief Executive will provide strategic leadership of our net zero ambitions.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments	Our Interim Chief Executive will provide strategic leadership of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the Our Manchester Strategy/Contribution to the Strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The effective use of staffing resources underpins the Council’s activities in support of its strategic priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan which is underpinned by the Our Manchester Strategy. Providing the leadership and focus for the future.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city’s economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The Interim Chief Executive will be funded from the existing staffing budget for the Chief Executive.

Financial Consequences – Capital

Not applicable.

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 above.

None.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A decision of the Council is required to enable the appointment of an interim Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service, as the recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service will still be ongoing at the point the current postholder leaves the Council. Interim appointments are also required in respect of statutory Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer posts.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The last day in post of the current Chief Executive will be 8 September 2024. It is not anticipated that a new permanent Chief Executive will be in post until approximately January 2025. This will necessitate the appointment of an interim Chief Executive during the intervening period.
- 2.2 In common with nearly all local authorities, the role of the Council's Chief Executive is integrated, under the Council's Constitution, with the statutory position of Head of Paid Service. Under Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council must designate one of its officers as Head of Paid Service. Furthermore, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 and the Council's Officer Employment Procedure Rules, only a meeting of the Council can approve the appointment of the Head of Paid Service. The Council is prohibited by law from delegating that decision.
- 2.3 Ordinarily, approval of the appointment of a Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service would be made by the Council following the recommendation of a candidate by a sub-committee of Personnel Committee acting as an appointment panel. On this occasion, given the need to ensure that this key statutory officer post is not allowed to become vacant, the decision on the appointment of an interim Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service has come directly to the Council for consideration.

3.0 Interim Appointment of Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service

- 3.1 To ensure that the organisation continues to have capacity and strategic leadership it was proposed to appoint an interim Chief Executive for a period of approximately 6 months pending the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive.
- 3.2 Several CVs were considered as potential options, with the preferred candidate being identified as Eamonn Boylan. Subject to the Council's approval, Eamonn will take up the interim role, sharing leadership responsibilities and supporting the Council's Senior Management Team to ensure a smooth transition ahead of a permanent Chief Executive being appointed.
- 3.3 Eamonn has a long and respected career in local government spanning more than 42 years, including as Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). He previously held a range of senior positions including Deputy Chief Executive at Manchester

City Council and in Sheffield, as well as taking up roles as Chief Executive of Stockport Metropolitan Council and Deputy Chief Executive of the National Housing Agency, now Homes England. He has respect in both local and national government circles and has an intimate knowledge of our city and region.

- 3.4 The contractual agreement with Eamonn outlines the Chief Executive responsibilities as defined by the role profile with some specific areas of focus. Subject to the days worked, he will be paid approximately £12,500 per month. A copy of the role profile is appended to this report.

4.0 Appointment to Interim Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer Positions

- 4.1 The Council is required to make appointments to certain statutory offices relating to the administration of the electoral process. The individual(s) appointed to these offices hold personal legal responsibilities separate from their responsibilities as Council officers. Consequently, it is considered that the relevant appointments should be explicitly made to named officers rather than being taken to automatically attach to any particular officer post within the authority. Under the Council's Constitution, the Council's Constitutional and Nomination Committee has delegated power to make appointments to these positions, but this does not preclude the Council from making such appointments itself.

- 4.2 In Manchester the longstanding practice (in common with many local authorities) has been for the officer who is the Council's Chief Executive to be appointed to these election-related statutory offices. As these offices cannot be left vacant, interim appointments to these roles will need to be made until a permanent Chief Executive takes up their position. During the interim period there will be ongoing electoral registration matters to be overseen and, while there are currently no scheduled elections during the interim period, by-elections always remain a possibility.

- 4.3 It is proposed that Eamonn Boylan is appointed to the following election-related positions on an interim basis:

- Electoral Registration Officer for Manchester, under Section 8(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 ("RPA 1983");
- Returning Officer for the elections of councillors of the district of Manchester and for elections of councillors of parishes within the district, under Section 35(1) of the RPA 1983; and
- Returning Officer for the district of Manchester for the election of a Greater Manchester Combined Authority mayor, under Section 35(2D) of the RPA 1983, as modified by Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 The recommendations are set out at the beginning of this report.