

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Full Council

Date: 24 May 2023

Subject: Appointment of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Report of: Leader of the Council – Councillor Stephen Cowan

SUMMARY

The Council is asked to approve the appointment of Sharon Lea as the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham with immediate effect.

The Chief Executive will also be the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. (The appointment of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer is required for the discharge of the functions of Electoral Registration Officer and responsibility for elections).

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council approves the appointment of Sharon Lea as the Chief Executive and the Head of Paid Service.
2. The Council approves the appointment of the Chief Executive as the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council's Constitution provides that the full Council will approve the appointment of the Head of Paid Service and the Chief Executive following the recommendation from a committee or sub-committee of the Council before the appointment is made where no well-founded objection from any member of the Executive has been received.

The Council Appointments Panel recommends that Sharon Lea be appointed as Chief Executive.

Implications verified by: David Tatlow – Strategic Director of Corporate Services

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications. The role of the chief executive is already part of the Council's establishment and will be contained within existing budgets.

Implications verified by: Sukvinder Kalsi, Strategic Finance Director.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT – none

REASONS FOR DECISION

Section 4 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires every local authority to designate one of their officers as its Head of Paid Service. Sections 8 and 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 also requires reappointment of the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer.

Sharon Lea is currently Interim Chief Executive by Decision of Full Council and has been so since February 2022. However the prefix 'Interim' should not be removed without compliance with the requirements of the Constitution which involves formal appointment.

Proposal and Issue

Sharon Lea was appointed as the Interim Chief Executive on 24 February last year. As she has been undertaking the duties for over 12 months, the continuing use of the title interim is no longer appropriate.

Consultation

Notice has been given to Cabinet Members of the proposed appointment.