

REPORT TO:	APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE Monday 13 December 2021
SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENT TO CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION (DCS)
LEAD OFFICER:	Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Alisa Flemming Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Education
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: The Council's management structure	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: The salary cost of this post is contained within the existing 2022/23 budget.	
KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO: n/a	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Agree the salary package of Corporate Director Children, Young People & Education (DCS) £141,965-£150,547 per annum under the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.2 Undertake the selection for and agree an appointment to the post of Corporate Director Children, Young People & Education (DCS) from the candidate(s) detailed in the Part B appendices to the agenda. Any appointment to be subject to the appointment notification process as set out in section 3.4 of part 4J of the Council's Constitution (Staff Employment Procedure Rules).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. This report seeks the Committee's approval to agree the salary package and undertake the selection for the post of Corporate Director Children, Young People & Education (DCS).

3. DETAIL

Background

- 3.1 The focus of this role is to lead the directorate in safeguarding vulnerable children and young people, to enhance the quality of life of children and young people in the borough, champion the full achievement of their potential and to support all schools in the borough in attaining great educational outcomes for all our children. The postholder will also undertake the statutory role of Director of Children's Services.

Recruitment Campaign Approach

The Croydon Senior Leadership Team recruitment campaign commenced in October 2021 following a competitive tender process which appointed Penna as the Council's executive search agent. Advertising went live on 4 November 2021 and closed on 28th November 2021.

Advertising for the role included:

- MJ – Print and online
- Twitter
- Linked In
- Diversity Programmatic
- Croydon.gov internal and external jobsites
- Penna.com jobsite

During this time, over 300 prospective candidates have been engaged in conversation and candidate attraction. In general the response has been positive, and the opportunity to update the market on the Croydon positioning has been welcomed by the candidate market, with many behind in their knowledge of the Council's financial and governance situation since the headlines in 2020. The significant progress, honesty and transparency set out in the campaign and in subsequent follow up calls with Penna and the Chief Executive has assured and motivated candidates to submit applications.

Focus on Diversity

- Penna's Lead for Diversity and Inclusion has been working on the roles to deliver best practice approaches and to ensure all areas of the recruitment programme are supportive of diversity and inclusion
- Job inclusion reviews were completed on the core job descriptions and person specifications to ensure that all foundation documentation met best practice and removed unconscious bias
- Search activity was 'levelled up' to ensure all outbound targeted activity included mapping of all protected characteristic prospective under-represented candidates across top tier local government and wider public sector organisations
- Programmatic media was used to target passive candidates using data from trusted social media partners focused on prospective candidates in under-represented areas for the Croydon leadership team.
- Advertising in The MJ both in print and on line reaches a wide and diverse audience across local government and the roles have been promoted on both Penna.com and Croydon.gov websites
- Re-targeting potential candidates that had shown an interest in the advertising but had not applied to ensure that candidates who may be unsure about applying have the opportunity to talk directly to Penna or the Council to answer any questions
- Advertising messaging was developed to ensure that visuals, messages, explicit and implicit, were encouraging and welcoming of diversity in candidates
- The micro site landing page clearly promoted the Council's equalities statements and commitments and through the copy in all the job descriptions and creative artwork we have been openly supportive of diversity

- The initial application assessment and longlisting will be carried out using appropriately redacted applications

Across all six roles advertised to date 54 applications have been received.

Next Steps

Longlisting meetings have taken place on 3rd December 2021 between the Council and Penna to screen the candidates and progress those suitable to the next stage which is a Technical Assessment interview with Penna and a suitably qualified external independent expert.

A full candidate report will be produced as a result of the Technical Assessment to enable further screening.

The Appointments Committee will convene to conduct short-listing on 13th December 2021. Applications will be redacted to ensure equality, diversity and inclusion best practice and candidate anonymity.

Once short-listing is agreed appropriate Stakeholder Panels made up of a number of internal and external partners will take place as follows for the role:-

1. Elected Members
2. Children, Young People and Care Leavers
3. Partners (whole system)
4. Staff and Guardians
5. Head teachers/Education

The Appointments Committee will then agree which candidates will be taken forward for final panel interview which are scheduled in early January/February 2022.

3.2 Structure chart



Localism Act 2011 and Pay Policy

- 3.3 Following the decision of the Annual Council meeting on 03 June 2014, the Appointments Committee has delegated responsibility for approving appointments beyond the threshold specified in statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 40 of the Localism Act 2011. The statutory guidance is that elected Members should be given an opportunity to vote before: salary packages upon appointment at or above a specified threshold are offered; and severance packages at or beyond a specified threshold are approved for staff leaving the Council's employment. For both these purposes, the specified threshold is currently £100,000 as set by Government.
- 3.4 As set out in the Council's Pay Policy agreed by the Council on 08 March 2021, it was anticipated that a new pay range for Croydon Chief Officer Grades would be introduced in line with the new senior management structure. This includes new Corporate Director roles. The Pay Policy provided that these roles would be placed on a grade and salary within the Croydon Chief Officer Grades 4 and 5 following evaluation of their post using the Hay job evaluation scheme with provision for incremental progression to the top spinal point of the grade. The Policy also provides that the salaries will be reviewed in line with national awards as determined by the JNC for Local Authority Chief Executives. The Council on 05 July 2021 agreed the new Job Descriptions for the three most senior tiers of management. This included agreeing the salary scale for the Corporate Director Children, Young People & Education (DCS) at Grade 5 £141,965-£150,547.
- 3.5 Under these arrangements the Corporate Director Children, Young People & Education (DCS) would receive a salary package which would engage the Committee's discretion in accordance with the delegation set out in paragraph 3.4 above and therefore a decision is required by the Committee to appoint at this pay level.
- 3.6 The Council's Staff Employment Procedure Rules at Part 4.J of the Constitution provide for a notification process to ensure that the Leader and any other Cabinet Members have no objections to the offer of appointment occurs before an offer of appointment is made to him/her and these requirements will be complied with should members approve the above recommendations.

4 FINANCIAL AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations

	Current year	Future Years		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Revenue Budget available	150.5	150.5	150.5	150.5
Effect of decision	150.5	150.5	150.5	150.5
Overspend / (underspend)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

*appointment will not be in place before start of 2022/23

4.2 The effect of the decision

This is an established post and the budget identified in section 4.1 above has been aligned to the anticipated start date of the successful candidate. The salary costs arising from this decision can be met from the 2022/23 budget.

4.3 Risks

There is a risk of being unable to retain the right calibre of person to this role if the salary is not comparable to the market. Failure to appoint a suitable candidate to this role will result in a lack of strategic leadership for the organisation.

4.4 Options

The alternative option of not filling the role; and for not making provision within the parameters of the Council's agreed Pay Policy Statement is not considered sustainable or viable option as explained in paragraph 4.3 above.

4.5 Future savings/efficiencies

None identified.

Approved by: Matt Davis, Interim Deputy S151 Officer

5 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the interim Director of Law and Governance that the Council may appoint such staff as it considers necessary for the proper discharge of its functions on such reasonable terms and conditions, including remuneration, as the Council thinks fit. However, there are certain statutory roles to which the Council has a duty to designate one of its officers.

One such role is the Director of Childrens' Services. In addition, such appointments are subject to the requirement as detailed in paragraph 3.3 above in so far as Member approval is required to appoint to salary packages in excess of £100,000.

- 5.2 The Council's Staff Employment Procedure Rules at Part 4.J of the Constitution provides for a notification process to ensure that the Leader and any other Cabinet Members have no objections to the offer of appointment which must occur before an offer of appointment can be made to him/her.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the interim Director of Law and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer..

6. CUSTOMER, EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, DATA PROTECTION CRIME AND DISORDER IMPACT

- 6.1 There are no direct considerations arising from this report.

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 7.1 The additional human resources impacts beyond those described in the body of the report are set out in Appendix 1 to this report, including the council's approach to attracting a wide and diverse talent pool, through advertising and executive search.

Approved by Dean Shoesmith, Interim Chief People Officer

CONTACT OFFICER: Dean Shoesmith, Interim Chief People Officer