

Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council

Leader's report to Full Council

Date 17th January 2018

<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	Appointment of Acting Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service
<u>Submitted by:</u>	Council Leader
<u>Portfolio</u>	Corporate and service improvement, people and partnerships
<u>Ward(s) affected</u>	All

Purpose of the report

To seek the agreement of the Council to appoint an acting Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.

Recommendation

That John Tradewell be appointed as acting Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service until such time as the Council decides that this is no longer necessary.

1. Background

- 1.1 As members will be aware, the current Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service is suspended and it is necessary for the Council to appoint someone to undertake these roles while this remains the case.
- 1.2 There are essentially two options for dealing with this issue:
 - Asking one of the Directors to take on this role;
 - Bringing in some interim support from outside the authority.
- 1.3 In the short term we were fortunate that Dave Adams, the Council's Executive Director for Operational Services, was willing to step into the role at short notice, and I would like to thank Dave for the work he has carried out in the role. But this was only ever intended to be a short-term appointment as we need to bolster leadership capacity rather than spread existing resources more thinly. We need Dave and the other Executive Directors to be able to focus on their own roles and that is why I concluded that we needed to bring in additional capacity.
- 1.4 For this reason I approached the Leader of Staffordshire County Council and asked if he would agree to John Tradewell, the County Council's Director of

Strategy, Governance and Change, joining us on a part-time basis. The Leader of the County Council agreed to my request.

- 1.5 John has experience of working with the Council and already has some knowledge of us, particularly the challenges around the elections and what needs to be done to address this in time for the elections in May. He is a very experienced senior local government officer and has undertaken a similar interim role at the County Council whilst they were recruiting their current Chief Executive. I believe that he has the skills and experience to be able to provide the leadership capacity needed by the Council at this point in time and I am therefore happy to recommend his appointment to the Council.

2 Legal and Statutory Implications

The Council is required by law to have a Head of Paid Service.

3 Financial Implications

A cost recovery arrangement has been agreed where this Council will pay the portion of John Tradewell's wage relating to his time at Newcastle.

4 Major Risks

None