

MEETING: **North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the CJC)**
DATE: **7 October 2022**
SUBJECT: **Secondment to the CJC Chief Executive role**
CONTACT OFFICER: **Dafydd Gibbard, the CJC's Chief Executive, and
Dafydd L Edwards, CJC Project Lead Officer**

DECISION SOUGHT:

To appoint Alwen Williams as the CJC's part-time Chief Executive, on a temporary secondment basis, until the position is reviewed again by the CJC at the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

Delegate power to the Chief Executive of Gwynedd Council to confirm formal arrangements for the secondment.

1. Introduction / Background

This report deals with appointment of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's acting Chief Executive (CJC).

At its meeting on 17 June 2022, the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee made appropriate arrangements including appointing Dafydd Gibbard, Gwynedd Council's Chief Executive, in the CJC CEO role on an interim basis, effective until the arrangements were reviewed by the CJC.

At its meeting on 22 July 2022, the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee reviewed the role of their Chief Executive and, after considering the options, resolved to submit a request to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to release part of their Portfolio Director's time to fulfil the role of the Corporate Joint Committee's Chief Executive at least until 31 March 2023.

The option to submit this request to the Ambition Board was selected as it is likely that the Ambition Board will be incorporated into the CJC, there would be a substantially higher cost if a stand-alone Chief Executive post was created, and as there is insufficient availability of time required for one of the 6 local authority Chief Executives to oversee the CJC's development.

The Establishment Regulations allow flexibility how the CJC may employ staff, including statutory officers. The CJC may employ them directly, or it may enter into arrangements with constituent authorities for their staff to be placed at the disposal of the CJC. Hence, this post could be seconded part-time from the EAB's host authority.

2. Decision and requirements of the Ambition Board

This option required approval by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. At its meeting on 30 September 2022, the Ambition Board agreed to release part of their Portfolio Director's time to fulfil the role of the CJC's Chief Executive.

As expected, a number of aspects need to be addressed from the perspective of the Ambition Board, such as 'back-filling' part of the Portfolio Director's role to create the necessary capacity.

The CJC will need to provide a financial contribution to the EAB in order to give them the flexibility to make the internal adjustments needed as a result of this part-time secondment (in order for the EAB to continue to deliver the Growth Program effectively).

The Ambition Board continues to be Alwen Williams' contractual employer, and the CJC will pay a fee to the Ambition Board for her secondment. The CJC is asked to authorise Gwynedd Council's Chief Executive to arrange this within the flexibility in the CJC's 2022/23 budget.

RECOMMENDATION

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee is asked to confirm the part-time secondment of Alwen Williams to the CJC Chief Executive role, in accordance with the decision sought and under the terms outlined above.

VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer

As the CJC is being established there is a transitional element in the work, particularly around its inter-relationship with Ambition North Wales. With the Economic Ambition Boards approval of the CJC's request to release the Portfolio Director's time, it is possible to move ahead with the appointment. As noted in the report, temporary arrangements are acknowledged as being appropriate as the CJC establishes.

Statutory Finance Officer

I have worked with the author to prepare this report and confirm the contents.