

MEETING: **North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)**
DATE: **24 March, 2023**
SUBJECT: **Extending the Secondment to the Interim CJC
Chief Executive role**
CONTACT OFFICER: **Geraint Owen, Corporate Director, Cyngor
Gwynedd**

DECISION SOUGHT:

To extend the appointment of Ambition North Wales' Portfolio Director as the CJC's part-time Chief Executive, on a temporary secondment basis, up to the end of September, 2023.

1. Introduction / Background

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 Economic Ambition Board was selected as it is likely that Ambition North Wales will be incorporated into the CJC, that 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 decision in principle, to transfer Ambition North Wales to the CJC, has already been taken by the Councils and following the recent legislative changes, it will now be possible to undertake this process over the next few months. As part of any transfer, the status of all PMO staff will be addressed.

You will recall that the Economic Ambition Board was required to approve the release of the Portfolio Director prior to the CJC making the decision to appoint an Interim Chief Executive. This was done at the Economic Ambition Board's meeting on the 30 September, 2022 when it was agreed to release part of the Portfolio Director's time in order to fulfil the role of the CJC's Chief Executive on a secondment basis.

Consequently, the CJC, at its meeting on the 7 October, 2022, approved the appointment of Ambition North Wales' Portfolio Director, as part-time Chief Executive, on the basis of a secondment, until the post would be reviewed by the CJC prior to the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

This temporary arrangement, whereby Portfolio Director fulfils the role of the CJC's Chief Executive for two days per week became effective as from the 10 October, 2022.

Ambition North Wales, via Cyngor Gwynedd as the host Authority, remains as Portfolio Director's contractual employer whilst the CJC recompenses Ambition North Wales for both direct and indirect costs associated with the secondment. Cyngor Gwynedd's Chief Executive was given authority to make the necessary arrangements within the flexibility of the CJC's budget for 2022/23.

2. Post March 2023 Interim Situation

A number of critical matters require further attention before the CJC is able to appoint a permanent Chief Executive e.g. the likely transfer of staff to the CJC's employment, while the CJC is required to review the current secondment decision taken at the meeting on the 7 October, 2022 prior to the 31 March, 2023.

Under current circumstances, the CJC needs to appoint a Chief Executive on a temporary basis and therefore it is proposed that you approve the extension of the Portfolio Director's appointment until 30 September, 2023 on the basis of current terms and dependent on the Economic Ambition Board's agreement to this further period.

A report will be submitted to a meeting of the Economic Ambition Board earlier in the day on the 24 March, 2023 requesting its agreement to extend the period for which it is prepared to release its Portfolio Director. The Economic Ambition Board's response to the request can be reported verbally at the CJC's meeting prior to considering this item.

RECOMMENDATION

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee is asked to agree the extension of Ambition North Wales' Portfolio Director on a part-time secondment to the CJC Interim Chief Executive role up to the end of September, 2023 in accordance with the decision sought (and dependent on the Economic Ambition Board's agreement).

VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer

I have had an input into the report and I am satisfied with the propriety of the recommendations.

Statutory Finance Officer

The Corporate Joint Committee's Budget for 2023/24, approved in January 2023, includes the Chief Executive's time for two days a week. I have no objection to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety.