

Agenda Item No. 13

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Board of Directors - Friday 10th March 2006

Report of the Senior Director

1 Chief Executive Recruitment

Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Board of the recruitment process for a new Regional Partnerships Chief Executive.

Recommendation

- 1.2 That the process for the recruitment and selection of a Chief Executive be noted.

Background

- 1.3 The recruitment of a new Regional Partnerships Chief Executive is underway. The post has been advertised and the closing date for applications is 3 March. Shortlisting will follow the Board meeting on 10 March.
- 1.4 A two day selection process is scheduled for 16/17 March with the formal interviews held on 17 March. The interview panel as proposed comprised the Chairman and Vice-Chairs of WMLGA and WMRA. There are however issues arising with Cllr Mick Salih having resigned as Vice-Chair of WMLGA/WMRA and Valerie Broom, another WMRA Vice-Chair, having withdrawn for health reasons. Roger McKenzie has agreed to stand in for Valerie. The Board will be updated on the remaining panel member at the meeting.
- 1.5 To assist with continuity, maintain senior corporate management capacity, and to help support and induct the new Chief Executive, Stephen Hind has agreed to defer his retirement until after the WMLGA/West Midlands Regional Assembly Annual Meetings in July 2006.

2 Regional Partnerships Secretary and Deputy Secretary

Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To agree a new Regional Partnerships Secretary following the resignation of Nigel Summers upon his retirement from Sandwell MBC; also the new position of Deputy Secretary.

2.2 Recommendation

- (a) That Michael Frater, Chief Executive of the Borough of Telford and Wrekin, be appointed as Regional Partnership Secretary for a period of two years.

- (b) That Nina Dawes, Chief Executive of Lichfield District Council be appointed as Deputy Secretary, also for a period of two years.

Background

- 2.3 Following the announcement of his retirement from Sandwell MBC Nigel Summers, the current Regional Partnership Secretary has tendered his resignation. Volunteers were sought from amongst the region's Chief Executives to act as the Regional Partnership Secretary for both the WMLGA and WMRA. Michael Frater has agreed to undertake the role with the agreement of his Council. He is currently leading the revision of Phase 2 of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the Assembly a role he will combine with this. The Regional Partnership Secretary has previously also acted in that capacity for West Midlands in Europe (WMIÉ). Due to the work load this will now be a role undertaken by another Chief Executive who will lead on European and International Affairs. Jerry Hutchinson from North Warwickshire has agreed to undertake that role.
- 2.4 The Regional Chief Executives Group has also agreed to nominate a Deputy Secretary. This is a new voluntary position. Previously there were separate Honorary Secretaries for WMLGA and West Midlands Regional Assembly. With the creation of a single Regional Partnerships Secretary some additional support capacity is required and will also help with future succession. The nominated Deputy Secretary is Nina Dawes, Chief Executive of Lichfield District Council.

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