

Appointment of the Chief Officer Economy and Skills

Date: 8 July 2024

Report of: Chief Executive

Report to: Employment Committee - Interview

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report outlines the reasons for the recruitment and selection to the post of Chief Officer Economy and Skills.

Recruiting to this role will build on the ongoing development and sustainability of the city of Leeds as a key commercial and cultural centre within the Yorkshire and Humber region, which operates at a global scale. The role has responsibility for leading the strategic direction of the Council's economic policies and strategies to deliver inclusive growth across Leeds.

The post is an established post and within budget provision for 2024/25 and beyond.

Recommendations

- a) Note the process for the recruitment and selection to the post of Chief Officer Economy and Skills on an interim basis.

and

- b) Following the selection process, should an appropriate candidate be identified, make an offer of appointment, subject to the associated notification processes, as set out within the Officer Employment Procedure Rules.

What is this report about?

- 1 This report outlines the reasons for the recruitment to the post of Chief Officer Economy and Skills.
- 2 The current Chief Officer Culture and Economy has secured a role at the Local Government Association on a 12-month secondment as Interim Director of Strategy and Reform from August

2024. The current portfolio of the Chief Officer Culture and Economy has been reviewed and the current leadership functions split, in order to provide the most appropriate and immediate support to cover this interim period. The role of Chief Officer Economy and Skills will be responsible for; Economic Policy, Business Support, Employment & Skills and Destination Marketing and International Relations. It is proposed to appoint to the role on a 12 month temporary basis in the first instance.

- 3 The Chief Officer Economy and Skills provides strategic leadership, advice and expertise to decision makers across the Council. The postholder will be responsible for leading teams in City Development dedicated to delivering our Inclusive Growth Strategy alongside key partners, through the creation of new jobs, supporting businesses, growing economic sectors, promoting enterprise and developing economic policy.
- 4 The post holder is accountable to the Director of City Development and their work falls under the Executive Members for; 'Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development' and 'Adult Social Care, Active Lifestyles and Culture'.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 Appointment to this post will ensure continued contribution to the Best City Ambition - our overall vision for the future of Leeds.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 6 Making this appointment will also ensure relevant issues in relation to the above three pillars are considered across the City Development Directorate.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: None

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 7 The proposals contained in this report have been agreed by the relevant Executive Board Members.

What are the resource implications?

- 8 The Chief Officer Economy and Skills is an established post and is within budget provision for 2024/25, and therefore no additional costs will be incurred in making this interim appointment.

What are the legal implications?

- 9 The Chief Officer Economy and Skills plays a significant role in delivering the strategic aims of the Council, city, region as well as national strategic aims and priorities. Failing to fill the post could negatively impact upon the ability of the Council to deliver our Inclusive Growth Strategy.

- 10 This post is an Employment Committee appointment in line with the criteria set out in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules and will be recruited to in accordance with those Procedure Rules.
- 11 Candidate information as part of this recruitment and selection exercise is included within exempt Appendix 2. This information relates to individuals' personal and employment details and will be exempt from publication.
- 12 Also, it is considered that the release of such information in Appendix 2 would be likely to prejudice the Council's ability to recruit effectively to similar posts in the future. It is therefore considered that it is in the public interest for candidate information in Appendix 2 to be treated as exempt from publication under the provisions of paragraphs 10.4 (1) and (2) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 13 Interim internal recruitment was identified as the best option, to ensure strategic leadership stability and continuity during an interim period whilst the substantive postholder is seconded to the Local Government Association.

How will success be measured?

- 14 Recruiting to this role will build on the continued economic success and competitiveness of the city, through the building of stronger and productive partnerships with the business community and key partners, ensuring the council's aims and objectives are being met and that government standards are adhered to.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 15 The recruitment and selection process is being co-ordinated by the Human Resources team. The post has been advertised on the Leeds City Council jobsite as an internal vacancy. The recruitment and selection timeline is as follows:
 - Job advertisement live on LCC Jobsite – 21st June 2024.
 - Job advertisement closes – 1st July 2024.
 - Shortlist by Employment Committee – 3rd July 2024.
 - Internal Stakeholder Panel – 8th July 2024
 - External Stakeholder Panel – 8th July 2024
 - Selection Interviews by Employment Committee – 8th July 2024.
- 16 Following the selection process, should an appropriate candidate be identified, the Employment Committee is asked to make an offer of appointment, subject to the associated notification processes, as set out within the Officer Employment Procedure Rules.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Advert and job profile.
- Appendix 2 - Applicant details for those shortlisted for interview - designated as exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4 (1) and (2).

Background papers

- None

Appendix 1 – Advert

Chief Officer Economy and Skills

Dir 75%

As our Chief Officer Economy and Skills you will relish the opportunity to champion Leeds and secure the long-term future of the city as a place of opportunity for citizens and business alike.

You'll be a member of the leadership team in our City Development directorate, which has wide-ranging responsibilities across Leeds that cover the economy, jobs and skills, built environment, transport, culture and sport.

In this newly framed role of Chief Officer Economy and Skills you will prioritise [inclusive growth in Leeds](#) to build an economy that works for everyone in our city. This can only be achieved through a whole city approach, and you will be key to bringing together city partners spanning the private, public and voluntary sectors to strive for this shared goal.

At Leeds City Council we have a culture of excellence and are continually striving to drive up standards. We are building on the recommendations of a positive peer review in November 2022 to help us deliver the next phase of our Best City Ambition.

Leeds City Council is one of the largest employers in the region with over 14,000 employees. We seek to recruit and develop talented individuals who embody our [council values](#) and [ambitions](#).

About you

As our Chief Officer Economy and Skills, you will be qualified to postgraduate level in a relevant subject area, or have equivalent experience. In addition you will bring to the role:

- substantial experience at senior level in the service area or a related setting
- in-depth understanding of the legislative, strategic and policy context of inclusive economic growth
- evidence of success in driving partnership programmes to deliver cross-sector priorities
- strong leadership and communication skills with the ability to influence, negotiate and raise the profile of the council and the city regionally, nationally and internationally
- sound judgment and reasoned decision-making with experience of operating in a political environment

About the role

As our next Chief Officer Economy and Skills, you have an exciting opportunity to shape the future of Leeds. With your compelling record and innovative approach, you can make a real difference for residents and their communities, businesses and everyone who visits or works in the city.

This is a high-profile role at the heart of collaborative efforts to develop our city for the better. You will lead teams in City Development dedicated to delivering our [Inclusive Growth Strategy](#) alongside key partners, whether through creating new jobs, supporting businesses, growing economic sectors, promoting enterprise or developing economic policy.

A key strand to this work is skills development and supporting people into jobs. Our Ofsted outstanding Employment and Skills service supports local people into work, training or education opportunities. The

service also works with businesses to help them recruit, retain and develop a skilled and inclusive workforce and contribute to the city's economic growth.

What we offer you

We take pride in offering the best employee experience, with benefits including:

- a competitive salary and annual leave entitlement plus statutory holidays
- membership of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund with generous employer contributions
- flexible and hybrid working arrangements subject to service requirements
- a clear career pathway and continuing professional development opportunities
- a range of [staff benefits](#) to help you boost your wellbeing and make your money go further

How to apply

Please upload your CV and complete a personal statement of no more than 500 words stating how you meet the requirements of the role.

[Read our guidance](#) for further advice. Please check your information carefully and ensure you complete all sections before submitting your application.

If you have any queries or would like an informal chat about the role please contact Angela Barnicle [angela.barnicle@leeds.gov.uk].

Interviews are likely to take place week commencing 8th July.

We promote diversity and want a workforce that reflects the population of Leeds. Leeds City Council is ranked 70 on the Stonewall Equality Index 2022. We are also an Age friendly employer, a Mindful employer and a Disability Confident leader.

All new Leeds City Council appointments are made subject to the satisfactory completion of a six-month probationary period.

This role is based in the UK. Employment is conditional on confirmation of the right to work in the UK - either as a UK or Irish citizen, under the EU Settlement scheme or having secured any other relevant work visa. If you do not have the right to work in the UK and the role does not meet eligibility for sponsorship, please consider carefully whether you meet the eligibility to apply.

Leeds City Council Job Profile

Directorate	City Development
Service Area	Economy & Skills.
Job Title	Chief Officer
Grade	Dir 75%
Conditions of service	JNC Terms and Conditions
Reports to	Director City Development
Responsible for	Economy & Skills

Job purpose Lead the strategic direction of the Council's economic policies and strategies to deliver inclusive growth across Leeds.

Developing and nurturing partnerships across the Council, the city and beyond. Promoting Leeds as a great place to live, learn, work, visit and invest, advocating for and supporting businesses to enable a resilient future and providing opportunities for people to develop skills, get into good work, innovate and thrive.

Responsibilities

- Provide strategic leadership, advice and expertise to decision makers across the Council.
- Work with key partners at national, regional and local level and in collaboration with colleagues and partners, support the delivery of real change across the city.
- Lead, promote and deliver positive solutions to achieving diversity and inclusion in all aspects of service delivery, community engagement and human resource areas, focussing on equality of outcome.
- Support the Director by leading a major area of the Directorate to ensure delivery of Best Value services to customers, to meet the objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan and comply with Government Standards.
- Monitor and review the achievement of targets and activity and take action to ensure targets are met and improvements achieved.
- Play a key role in interpreting, shaping and implementing policy at international, national, regional and local level, through a range of formal and informal networks including Eurocities, Core Cities and the Inclusive Growth Network.
- Lead on the relationship with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority on Economic Policy, Business Support, Employment and Skills and Destination Marketing including inward investment.
- Ensure that the Council has strong strategic relationships with businesses, providing advocacy and support particularly in key sectors including digital, financial and professional services, health and manufacturing and with business representative organisations (e.g. Chamber of Commerce and CBI).
- Promote and maximise opportunities to enhance the economy and support local employment (for example through facilitating the delivery of major investments in the city).
- Develop and nurture key partnerships in support of the delivery of inclusive growth. Specifically, ensure the success of the Leeds Anchors Network, the Business Anchors Network, the Leeds Innovation Partnership and the Future Talent Board.

- Play a key role in the Best Council Leadership Team and actively support the Council's Corporate Leadership Team in ensuring our organisational developments and improvements remain focused on delivering improved outcomes for local people.
- Meet agreed objectives as laid out in Council and Directorate plans ensuring compliance with legislation and, where appropriate, national standards, in pursuit of excellence in service delivery.
- Lead managers within the service to develop a high performing workforce and manage resources to achieve service and overarching objectives in line with the city's agreed prioritisation.
- Undertake effective consultation and engagement activities and communications with staff, service users, councillors, trade unions, partners and other stakeholders in accordance with Council policy.
- Support open, responsive and accountable government, ensuring governance compliance with financial and procurement procedures.
- Manage all aspects of risk and be accountable for the safety of staff, service users and contractors in accordance with all statutory obligations and relevant health and safety policies.
- As a member of Strategic Leadership Team, to support the Director and other Chief Officers in the achievement of city wide outcomes.
- Actively drive and deliver continuous improvement initiatives taking the strategic lead in developing the service in the context of city, regional and national priorities.
- Lead and contribute to cross Council projects, collaborative working with partners and supporting Directorate Management Teams.
- Actively support Corporate Management Team in achieving continuous improvement across the Council and; as a member of Directorate Management team, develop and implement initiatives to support continuous improvement in the Directorate Services.
- Work with elected members, service users, community representatives and other stakeholders in ways which support open, responsive and accountable government providing appropriate advice relating to the work of the Directorate to Members and council officers so as to manage risk and support them in their respective roles.
- In line with the Budget Management Accountability Framework to be responsible and accountable for developing appropriate, proportionate and effective financial solutions to be implemented across the Directorate.
- Set and deliver transformational goals with broad perspectives and long term timelines, which maximises effective resource management, ensures financial compliance and is responsive to sector and city priorities. Plans are in place to meet priorities; budgets are maximised and there is an efficient and sustainable use of resources.
- The duties outlined are not meant as an exhaustive list and will also comprise any other duties within the spirit of the post commensurate to the grade.

Qualifications Relevant Degree and post graduate qualification together with in depth experience at a senior level within the service area or relevant environment is essential.

Working Context - Post holders will work flexibly both at home and at various locations across the City and region. All colleagues should work in line with our hybrid working principles and spend regular time in the workplace to support service delivery, meeting the needs of the team and the requirements of their individual role. The hours are worked mainly Monday to Friday. However, the post holder will be expected to work outside normal working hours, including attendance at evening/weekend meetings or events if required to meet the needs of the service.

Essential requirements It is essential that the candidate should be able to demonstrate the following criteria. Candidates will only be shortlisted if they can demonstrate that they meet all the essential requirements.

- Able to raise the profile of Leeds nationally and internationally to attract inward investment, support trade, enhance the cultural reputation and grow the visitor economy
- Able to make reasoned and logical decisions allied with high level organisational skills.
- Able to take responsibility, through concurrent delegation authority arrangements, for relevant statutory economic development and employment and skills related matters.
- Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the legislative, strategic and policy context of inclusive economic growth.
- Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the current local, regional and national issues and the legislative and political context relating to the specified portfolio areas.
- Demonstrate knowledge of applicable legislation, regulations, policies, inspections and performance information and relevant strategic functions e.g. health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection.
- Detailed knowledge and understanding of economic strategy and policy, understanding of local government political systems and experience of working on politically sensitive issues including significant experience of developing productive working relationships with Council Members, trade unions and Corporate Leadership Team.
- Excellent communication skills with the ability to influence, negotiate and establish credibility for the Council and the service.
- Evidence of working in a multi-agency environment and of forging and driving successful partnership programmes to deliver cross sector priorities and outcomes.
- Experience of successful leadership and management of large scale complex change programmes with an understanding of the strategic issues that face integrated work.
- Significant successful senior leadership experience
- Substantial experience of operating in a political environment
- Extensive experience of exercising sound judgement and providing clear advice at senior level.
- Experience of developing and implementing highly complex strategies leading to successful outcomes

Behavioural & other Characteristics required.

- Understand and embrace [Leeds City Council Values and Behaviours](#) and codes of conduct.
- Committed to continuous improvement in all areas and work towards delivering the [Best City Ambition](#) of Health & Wellbeing, Inclusive Growth and Zero Carbon
- Be aware of promote and comply with Leeds City Council policies and procedures e.g., health, safety and security, confidentiality, and data protection.
- Be aware of and support difference ensuring equality for all working in an anti-discriminatory manner, upholding, and promoting the behaviours, values and standards of Leeds City Council.
- Recognise and appropriately challenge any incidents of racism, bullying, harassment, victimisation, and any form of abuse, ensuring compliance with relevant policies and procedures.
- Able to understand and observe Leeds City Council equality and diversity policies.
- Carry out all duties having regard to an employee's responsibility under Health and Safety Policies.

Date Job description last reviewed: June 2024

Name L Megson

Designation Deputy Head of HR