

Public Forum

Written statements to Annual Council



Date: Thursday, 21 May 2020

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Agenda

1. Written Statements

PS01 Mary Page

Chief Executives Appointment

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CS01 Councillor Clive Stevens

Chief Executives Appointment



STATEMENT PS 01

Submitted by Mary Page

Title: Item 14 appointment of Chief Executive

I welcome the appointment of a Chief Executive, as this post is highly recommended for efficient and effective working of the organisation. If I was the new post holder i might be a little nervous as I also note the removal of the two previous chief executives. However, both left with huge payoffs at unnecessary expense for the Bristol tax-payer. I do hope we're in for third time lucky not another wasteful expense from this administration.

STATEMENT CS 01

Submitted by Clive Stevens

Title: Item 14 appointment of Chief Executive

I am happy to vote for Mike Jackson to become Chief Executive. From what I can see he has admirable qualities of tact, leadership, patience, clarity of thought and persuasive skills. I think his new direct reports will benefit from that too.

As you know I was concerned when the organisation structure was flattened in 2018 following the departure of the last Chief Executive. But what worried me more was the fact that the three key executive directors reported directly to the Mayor and were appraised by the Mayor. For me this brought deep worries about lack of trust. When push comes to shove and you are under pressure people tend to do what their boss tells them. And that gets passed down the organisation as managers watch the behaviour of directors. This all led to the phrase "mutual trust" being removed from the Member Officer Protocol.

So I was pleased to read that the original proposal is to have one just one director (the CE) report into the Mayor. One is less worse than three, and I think Mike Jackson could probably manage the inevitable conflicts that would come his way - but I am so happy to see the LibDem/Conservative amendment which is the way to resolve this entirely and properly. I shall be voting for it too.