EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

26 March 2018

Title: Senior Leadership Appointment - Director, Inclusive Growth

Report of the Chief Executive

Open Report For Decision

Wards Affected: None Key Decision: No

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Accountable Director: Chris Naylor, Chief Executive

Summary

It was agreed at the JNC Salaries and Conditions Panel on 31 October 2017 that that the separate posts of Strategic Director, Growth and Homes, and Commissioning Director, Growth, Homes and Regeneration, be deleted. A permanent post of Director, Inclusive Growth was created. It was also agreed that the post of Director, Inclusive Growth should be filled on a permanent basis.

An intensive search and selection process has been undertaken supported by Penna Executive Recruitment Agency who were engaged following a tender for executive search and selection services. The commissioning of Penna in December 2017 was designed to work to a timetable for interviews in early March 2018. The post was advertised on both the Council’s and Penna’s website.

The search focused on candidates with a range of experience across strategy, policy and economics, with an understanding of the broad ‘place shaping’ agenda and how it impacts on the lives of the residents of Barking and Dagenham. It also focussed on candidates who grasp the importance of, and synergies between strategies such as employment and skills strategy, industrial strategy, housing and energy policy.

On 5 March 2018 the JNC Appointments Panel met to interview candidates for the post of Director, Inclusive Growth. They unanimously agreed to recommend the appointment of Graeme Cooke. The minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the Assembly is authorised to make the appointment to this post based on the recommendation of the JNC Appointments Panel.

Recommendation(s)

The Assembly is recommended to appoint Graeme Cooke, currently employed by the London Borough of Islington as the Head of Strategy and Change, as the Director, Inclusive Growth.
Reason(s)
To accord with the requirements of Part 2, Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of Appendices:
- **Appendix 1** – Minutes of the JNC Appointments Panel, 5 March 2018