

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS

<b>TO:</b>	<b>POLICY COMMITTEE (ACTING AS SOLE MEMBER FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR CHILDREN)</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>1 November 2021</b>		
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Brighter Futures for Children Limited - Reserved Matters</b>		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLORS:</b>	<b>Cllr Jason Brock Cllr Liz Terry Cllr Ashley Pearce</b>	<b>PORTFOLIOS:</b>	<b>Corporate Governance Children's Services Education</b>
<b>SERVICE:</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Kate Graefe</b>	<b>TEL:</b>	<b>0118 937 4132</b>
<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	<b>Assistant Director of Procurement and Contracts</b>	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	<b>kate.graefe@reading.gov.uk</b>

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Policy Committee in its capacity as the sole member of Brighter Futures for Children Ltd and make a decision as sole member regarding the appointment of a new Independent Non-Executive Director for BFfC.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 For Policy Committee in its capacity as sole member for BFfC to ratify the proposed appointment of Calvin Pike as a new Independent Non-Executive Director for BFfC.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In October 2018 the Council approved the formation of a separate Company for the delivery of Children's Services in Reading; Brighter Futures for Children Limited (BFfC). The Company subsequently began delivery of services in December 2018.
- 3.2 BFfC is a company limited by guarantee without share capital and its sole member is Reading Borough Council. The Company's Articles of Association set out its obligations in terms of reporting to the Council as Sole Member as well as the matters which are reserved to the Sole Member. The employment of a new Independent Non-Executive Director is listed as a reserved matter in the Articles, hence this report requesting their consideration and agreement.

#### 4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Company conducted a skills assessment of the Board earlier in 2021 and concluded that the skills of the current Non-Executive Directors align with the Company requirements. To further enhance and provide additional breadth of skills to the Board as well as support future continuity and succession planning (given all

current Non-Executive Directors have the same end of term date of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024), a need for an additional Non-Executive Director has also been identified.

- 4.2 In line with this, Policy Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 agreed:
- a. to approve the reappointment of Tony Byrne, Nicola Gilham and Paul Snell as Non-Executive Directors of Brighter Futures for Children for a second term of office (three years) from 15 November 2021 to 14 November 2024;
  - b. To endorse the recruitment of a further Non-Executive Director with significant expertise and experience at a senior level in Education and/or with commissioning, commercial and business skills.
- 4.3 The new Non-Executive Director recruitment has focused on employing someone with significant Education experience. The appointment has been conducted with the Lead Councillor for Education, Ashley Pearce, as part of the panel.
- 4.4 Calvin Pike will start as a NED on 2 November (subject to Policy Committee) decision. Calvin was the unanimous candidate for the panel. He comprehensively matched the role profile and job requirements. He has extensive, successful leadership experience in education and demonstrated strong commitment to addressing inequality in education and improving life chances for children and families in Reading. Calvin has worked for the Department for Education as a DfE Education Adviser and is an Ofsted accredited schools inspector. He currently Chairs the London Learning Consortium and has Chaired an interim executive board.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 5.1 In Spring 2021 the Council refreshed its Corporate Plan, incorporating a number of major change projects under 3 themes:
1. healthy environment
  2. thriving communities
  3. inclusive growth
- 5.2 This proposal aligns with the delivery of the BFfC Business Plan, which forms part of the Thriving Communities theme.

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 6.2 There are no environmental or climate change implications arising from this report.

## **7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Not applicable

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment is not relevant to the requested decisions.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 As stated within the report, the appointment of an Independent Non-Executive Director is a Reserved Matter within the Company Articles, hence seeking the required agreement prior to formal appointment.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The recruitment and remuneration costs will be met from within the contract sum agreed to be paid to BFfC for FY2021/22, as already provisioned in the Council MTFP and BFfC Business Plan.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 There are none.