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**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor John Williams, Leader**

**Responsible Director(s) - Barry Keel, Chief Executive**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek approval for the appointment of an interim Chief Executive following the appointment of Barry Keel to the post of Chief Executive at Plymouth City Council.

**Details and Analysis**

2. Barry Keel has agreed a release date of 28th February, 2005 with the Director of Corporate Services in consultation with Cabinet. The recruitment process is underway and SOLACE executive recruitment specialists have been appointed to assist the Council. It is anticipated that final interviews will take place in late March/early April. The commencement date for a new Chief Executive will be dependent on their current employment arrangements and could be as late as early July 2005. Given the potential for up to a four month period without a Head of Paid Service, it is appropriate for the Council to make an interim appointment.
3. The Council could externally recruit an Interim Chief Executive but given the tight timescales and limited period of cover required, it is proposed that an existing member of the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) be asked to act up for the period.
4. All members of CMT have been asked to express their interest in providing the interim cover and following consultation with Cabinet it is recommended that Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services act as Interim Chief Executive with effect from 1st March, 2005. It should be noted that he will not be a candidate for the post of Chief Executive.
5. In terms of remuneration for the role of Interim Chief Executive, it is recommended that the Head of Human Resource Management in consultation with the Leader agree an appropriate honorarium payment.

**Legal Implications**

6. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

**Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

7. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those

functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Council Policy Framework**

8. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

### **Recommendation**

9. Council are requested to appoint Paul Wildsmith as Interim Chief Executive with effect from 1st March, 2005.
10. The Head of Human Resource Management in consultation with the Leader agree an honorarium payment for the role of Interim Chief Executive.

### **Reasons**

11. The recommendation is supported to enable the Council to appoint an Interim Chief Executive.

**Barry Keel  
Chief Executive**

### **Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Lesley Blundell Ext. 2210  
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