

Dewsbury Town Deal Board

24th June 2021

Item 4: Selection of a Dewsbury Town Deal Chair

1. Introduction

Officers have reported verbally at recent meetings regarding the selection of a permanent chair for Town Deal Board. As part of this process Gatenby Sanderson (GS) were engaged to undertake a process of finding potential candidates for the role of chair. This process has now concluded and officers are able to report that a preferred candidate has been selected and has accepted the role.

Members should note that the post was offered on a 3 year fixed term basis.

2. Process

In the first instance GS were asked undertake an extensive search across the area to identify potential candidates. From this search GS were able to identify a number of possibilities and then make a recommendation to the Council of those that would be suitable for interview.

This exercise was undertaken and three candidates were selected for interview by a Board member panel. The panel was supported by Council officers including the Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration.

Interviews took place on 25th May 2021. Officers can report a consensus from the board panel on the preferred candidate

3. Introduction of Preferred Candidate

The selected candidate is Keith Ramsay. Keith has experience in the public sector and commercial world. His background is as follows:

- Chair of Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust - post held since June 2019.
- Chair of the Board of the Association of Business Executives which he has held since 2014
- A group Member of Incommunities Commercial Ltd, a registered social landlord, and was their Chair between 2013 and 2018.
- Deputy Chair of Leeds Metropolitan University between 2003 and 2012.

Keith's executive career spanned the retail, accommodation and the business support sector. He spent many years at M&S (1982-2002) progressing to become a Regional Manager, was Director of Customer Services at Space New Living (2003-2005) and was also Chief Executive of Customer First UK

(2006-2007) a business support joint venture between Yorkshire Forward and the London Development Agency.

4. Decision

Following a rigorous search and selection process with a final selection from the board panel at interview the selected candidate Keith Ramsay should be installed as the permanent chair of the Dewsbury Town Deal Board with immediate effect.