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AGENDA

Committee	APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE - HEAD OF PLANNING
Date and Time of Meeting	TUESDAY, 27 APRIL 2021, 9.00 AM
Venue	REMOTE MEETING
Membership	Councillors Hopkins, Jones-Pritchard, K Jones, Merry and Wild

1 Election of Chair

To elect a Chairperson for the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.

4 Terms of Reference

To discharge the functions of the authority in respect of the appointment and dismissal of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers (as defined in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006) and the statutory Head of Democratic Services, in accordance with the Employment Procedure Rules and any other relevant Council policies and procedures.

5 Exclusion of the Public

Information included in the following item is not for publication by virtue of paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6 Appointment of Head of Planning *(Pages 3 - 130)*

To consider the longlisting of Candidates for the appointment of Head of Planning.

7 Dismissal (if required)

8 Date of Next Meeting - 17 May 2021

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal Services

Date: 21 April 2021

Contact: Kate Rees, KRees@cardiff.gov.uk



JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title: Head of Planning	Directorate/Service Area: Planning, Transport & Environment
Section: Planning	Reporting to: Director, Planning, Transport & Environment
Grade: OM1	Hours per Week: 37
Post Number: ST50009818	Number of Employees Reporting to Post: 8
Special Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will undertake such other duties and/or times of work as may reasonably be required of you. Willingness to work occasional weekends and occasional evenings as the need arises. 	Location of Post: County Hall, however homeworking must be undertaken currently due to the pandemic.
Job Purpose: To manage, lead and effectively deliver the Planning and Building Control functions within the County of Cardiff.	
Duties and Responsibilities Job Specific Requirements <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide leadership and direction in maintaining and developing the efficient, effective operation and profile of the Service that meets customer and organisational needs/requirements whilst managing associated risks 2. To lead and co-ordinate the Development Management function including responsibility for the management of caseload, direct involvement in negotiations on major proposals, ensuring the smooth operation of Planning Committee and providing professional support and advice to Case Officers 3. To lead and co-ordinate the Planning Policy function including maintaining an up-to-date Development Plan, preparation of supporting guidance, policy monitoring and cross-authority working including co-ordinating the Council's input into the Strategic Development Plan process 4. To manage the Building Control function 	

5. To effectively manage the resources of the Service including workforce planning and staff development, budgetary management (including maximising opportunities to secure additional income and putting in place robust financial monitoring measures) and ensuring that IT systems remain fit for purpose
6. To effectively plan ahead to ensure that the Planning Service can adapt to effectively respond to risks/future challenges, identify best practice/develop innovative solutions and respond to evolving customer/stakeholder needs through leading an on-going business planning process
7. To ensure that the Service successfully meets national and corporate performance targets
8. To champion the role of Planning in delivering outcomes which meet national and local priorities including responding to the climate emergency, placemaking agenda, supporting the post-Covid recovery, meeting future needs and wider well-being and environmental objectives
9. To deputise for the Director of Planning, Transport & Environment as may be required

Corporate Requirements

1. To participate actively in supporting the principles and practice of equality of opportunity as laid down in the organisation's Equal Opportunities Policy
2. To take reasonable care for the health and safety of yourself and other persons who may be affected by your acts or omissions and to comply with all health and safety legislation as appropriate
3. To ensure that the Planning Service fully contributes to relevant corporate initiatives
4. As a term of your employment you may be required to undertake such other duties and/or times of work as may reasonably be required of you, commensurate with your grade or general level of responsibility within the organisation.

DATE COMPLETED: 02/03/2021

AGREED BY:

Date Received by Post holder: _____

Signature of Post holder: _____



Person Specification

Job Title: Head of Planning

Post Number: ST50009818

THE PERSON APPOINTED MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS

Area to be Demonstrated	Essential Requirements YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS	Desirable Requirements YOU DO NOT HAVE TO MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS BUT IF YOU DO, PLEASE TELL US	How Assessed Application Form or Interview or Both
Competencies (as per Behavioural Competency Framework)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting Our Customers First – Level 4 (1) Getting Things Done – Level 4 (2) Taking Personal Responsibility – Level 4 (3) Seeking to understand others and treating them with respect – Level 4 (4) 		Application Form
Education & Training	Professionally qualified as a Chartered Town Planner or hold an appropriate professional qualification with demonstrable educational attainment, experience and expertise in Planning and Development Management (5)	Appropriate leadership/management qualification or other equivalent training/professional development achievements (1)	Application Form & Interview, certification where required
Experience / Knowledge	<p>Relevant experience of effectively leading and managing Planning Teams (6)</p> <p>Relevant experience of determining complex planning applications including successfully leading negotiations with developers (7)</p>	<p>Sound understanding and experience of Building Control functions (2)</p> <p>Demonstration of effectively managing Planning Budgets (3)</p> <p>Sound understanding, awareness and practical applications of the</p>	Application Form and Interview

	<p>Sound understanding of the legislative framework and Planning Policy context in Wales and experience of direct involvement in the Plan-making process (8)</p> <p>Relevant experience of effectively liaising with Elected Members including presenting applications to Planning Committee and advising Cabinet & Local Members (9)</p> <p>Experience of playing a leading role in working corporately and collaboratively with external organisations in delivering successful outcomes (10)</p>	Placemaking approach (4)	
Skills and Abilities	<p>Exceptional organisational skills including the ability to effectively manage multiple priorities and work under pressure to high levels of performance to tight and often challenging deadlines (11)</p> <p>Highly developed communication and interpersonal skills (12)</p> <p>The ability to work collaboratively and help deliver corporate priorities (13)</p> <p>The ability to effectively delegate and to maximise/empower the role of staff in delivering Service objectives (14)</p>		Application Form and Interview
Personal Attributes	<p>A commitment to developing the potential of staff within the Planning Service (15)</p> <p>The ability to drive innovative improvements</p>		Application Form and Interview

	<p>which benefit customers (16)</p> <p>To be a champion in demonstrating the positive and enabling role of Planning (17)</p> <p>Commitment to the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy (18)</p>		
Special Circumstances	Will undertake such other duties and/or times of work as may reasonably be required of you. (19)		Application Form and Interview

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Cardiff Council Behavioural Competency Framework

Supporting the Values of the Council

Open

We are open and honest about the difficult choices we face, and allow people to have their say on what's important to them and their communities

Fair

We champion fairness, recognising that with less resource we need to prioritise services for those who need them most.

Together

We work with our communities and partners across the city to deliver the best outcomes for the people of Cardiff

Putting our Customers First (Core)

This competency is about placing the customer at the heart of our activities, listening to them and being prepared to do things differently to meet their needs

Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Understand who our customers are</p> <p>Be polite, helpful and considerate and take time to listen to customers</p> <p>Work with colleagues to help meet customer needs</p>	<p>Seek to understand our customer needs</p> <p>Asking for customer feedback</p> <p>Using feedback to inform our actions, priorities and recommendations</p>	<p>Encouraging and supporting others to deliver excellent customer service</p> <p>Consulting and engaging with community and customer groups to identify customer need</p> <p>Developing ways of working, processes and structures to achieve continual improvements in customer service</p>	<p>Ensuring that customer views are fully taken into account in the planning of services</p> <p>Promoting and ensuring working across service areas to improve customer care</p> <p>Challenging others across the organisation to improve service delivery</p>	<p>Analysing services from the 'customer perspective' to ensure high-quality, timely and flexible</p> <p>Understanding and guiding others towards early intervention, prevention and the elimination of demand caused by service failure</p> <p>Putting the customer at the centre of cross-portfolio working and external partnerships: seeks to achieve seamless, efficient and accessible service provision</p> <p>Using rigorous methods to test, review and enhance the customer experience</p>

Getting Things Done (Core)

This competency is about the personal, inner motivation, enthusiasm and drive to meet and exceed targets so that we focus on what needs to be done and make it happen

Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Ensuring tasks are completed to high standard and see them through to completion</p> <p>Contributing to ensure efficient ways of working</p> <p>Monitoring and checking own progress against requirements</p>	<p>Ensuring own and, where applicable, others' outputs meet requirements</p> <p>Identifying and communicating priorities to relevant people</p> <p>Identifying where the right resources and skills are available</p>	<p>Establishing ways of measuring and benchmarking performance</p> <p>Committing required resources and time to deliver and improve results</p> <p>Defining and communicating critical success factors for service delivery</p>	<p>Making decisions and setting priorities on the basis of calculated costs, benefits and risks.</p> <p>Supporting and driving new performance improvement initiatives</p> <p>Seeking, identifying and taking actions to overcome organisational barriers to deliver improved results</p> <p>Recognising and acknowledging the performance of others</p>	<p>Ensuring that performance is focused on continually improving outcomes for customers and the city region as a whole</p> <p>Engaging with internal and/or external partners at a strategic level to ensure that performance is optimised.</p> <p>Taking necessary actions and making hard choices to ensure results are delivered.</p> <p>Identifying and resolving systemic or structural barriers to performance.</p> <p>Establishing a culture of achievement and a shared commitment to exceed targets</p>

Taking Personal Responsibility (Core)

This competency is about being consistent with our own values and those of the council, and demonstrate a commitment to support change and see it through.

Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Being consistent and fair in dealings with others</p> <p>Rectifying errors and seeking appropriate guidance and support to correct them</p> <p>Sharing of all relevant information with others</p>	<p>Continuing to deliver when faced with tough circumstances, uncertainty, difficulty or change.</p> <p>Supporting and encouraging others to deal with uncertainty, difficulty or change</p> <p>Encouraging others to be fair, open and honest</p>	<p>Challenging established practices where they are not consistent with fairness and openness.</p> <p>Speaking out even when it jeopardises a trusted or valuable relationship</p> <p>Seeking to turn difficult situations around</p>	<p>Challenging powerful individuals to behave in a way that models the organisational values</p> <p>Actively promoting and driving an organisational commitment to public service</p> <p>Ensuring sharing of all relevant information across the organisation</p> <p>Ensuring organisational practices are transparent</p>	<p>As a visible leader, modelling and promoting values in all activities and interactions</p> <p>Retaining the highest standards of honesty, integrity and respect during periods of significant pressure and difficulties</p> <p>Providing values-based leadership for the development and maintenance of city-region and partnering arrangements</p>

Seeking to understand others, and treating them with respect (Core)

This competency is about demonstrating an understanding of others and valuing their contribution and viewpoint even if it may be different from your own

Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Asking about others' views and feelings, and actively listening and acknowledging these</p> <p>Acknowledging and considering the different views and ideas of others</p> <p>Checking own understanding of how others feel</p>	<p>Questioning others to understand their viewpoint and take them into account</p> <p>Seeking to understand, the reasons for others actions and views</p> <p>Encouraging others to consider the impact of their actions</p>	<p>Shaping the environment to ensure others feel positive and conflict is minimised</p> <p>Addressing and changing things when the behaviours of others is disruptive</p> <p>Seeking and taking opportunities to create and support forums where people can express their views and concerns</p>	<p>Assessing the strengths and development areas of others, aligning their strengths to the demands and requests made of them</p> <p>Seeking to understand the source of negative emotions within and external to the organisation</p> <p>Identifying and taking action to pre-empt situations where strong emotions will be aroused.</p>	<p>Building positive relationships with others in challenging and complex circumstances</p> <p>Understanding and responding to the political, financial, reputational and other factors that influence the behaviour of senior people</p> <p>Recognising and taking action to resolve cultural or systemic causes of conflict, misunderstanding or lack of collaboration</p> <p>Modelling consistently collaborative, supportive and respectful behaviour towards others</p>

Developing Potential

This competency is about identifying and growing talent to ensure we have the capability needed for the future				
Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
	<p>Supporting others' to identify their development needs and find ways to meet these needs</p> <p>Actively supporting others to develop understanding and/or skills</p> <p>Mentoring others and sharing knowledge to improve performance</p>	<p>Supporting others to acquire the skills needed for the future in the short, medium and long term</p> <p>Giving positive and constructive feedback</p> <p>Actively looking for and taking opportunities to coach and mentor others</p>	<p>Promoting and encouraging staff development across the organisation</p> <p>Ensure a resource pool to meet longer-term talent requirements</p> <p>Develop others to equip them for leadership roles</p>	<p>Predicting changing organisational needs and taking action to ensure people are fully equipped to meet them</p> <p>Taking a visible and proactive role to development high quality leadership and management skills across the organisation</p> <p>Understanding and nurturing the skills and behaviours required to optimise partnering arrangements</p>

Leading Change

This competency is about taking responsibility for change, encouraging initiative and making the Council's objectives real and relevant for others

Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
	<p>Promoting and being positive about change</p> <p>Seeking opportunities for self and others to contribute to change</p> <p>Helping others to understand the reasons for and the process of change</p>	<p>Setting out and communicating the vision and the rationale for change</p> <p>Looking for ways to support and contribute to successful change</p> <p>Enabling and supporting colleagues and stakeholders to deal effectively with change</p>	<p>Simplifying a complex or confusing message to provide a clear vision that others are able to buy into and act upon</p> <p>Following through on change to ensure it is fully embedded in the organisation, the benefits are realised and lessons learnt for future change.</p> <p>Creating and promoting a culture and environment in which change is managed effectively and sensitively, to increase the likelihood of buy-in and success</p>	<p>Creating a coherent vision, aligning and integrating many different change initiatives and programmes</p> <p>Testing and evaluating the longer-term and strategic impact of change programmes</p> <p>Ensuring that structures and resources are in place to effectively lead and manage change programmes</p> <p>Championing change and securing buy-in from senior players internally and externally</p> <p>Demonstrating consistent drive, resilience and agility during challenging periods of change</p>

Initiating Change and improvement

This competency is about having the ability to look ahead, anticipate events, see opportunities and take action now to shape the future

Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Seeking and taking opportunities to improve</p> <p>Being flexible and open to changes</p> <p>Being cooperative when change impacts upon you</p>	<p>Using knowledge and experience to proactively put forward suggestions for improving</p> <p>Dealing with the unexpected and adapting readily to change.</p> <p>Identifying and taking action to head off potential problems</p>	<p>Encouraging, promoting and supporting new ideas</p> <p>Constantly encouraging self and others to look for improvements in methods, approaches and ways of working</p> <p>Identifying and implementing new approaches to improve</p>	<p>Looking for long-term opportunities that will create positive changes and taking action to make these a reality</p> <p>Identify new and bold ideas to respond to opportunities that lie ahead.</p> <p>Actively use internal and external data and trends to add value for the customers and the council</p> <p>Develop clear direction on how the organisation can improve</p>	<p>Recognising when only radically different models of delivery will secure the desired outcomes</p> <p>Being creative and thinking without boundaries: challenging narrow views and deep-rooted resistance</p> <p>Taking action to quickly translate initial ideas into tangible results when speed of execution is essential</p> <p>Identifying when 'good ideas' do not fit with the bigger picture or strategic intent</p>

Organisational Awareness

This competency is about understanding formal and informal structures, decision-making, climate and culture and organisational politics, which shape how the council works				
Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
		<p>Identifying and challenging organisational limitations, where applicable</p> <p>Identifying both formal and informal sources of influence and using this knowledge to build relationships with key decision makers/influencers</p> <p>Recognising the reasons for on-going organisational behaviour</p>	<p>Acknowledging and responding to internal and external forces affecting the organisation</p> <p>Spotting trends and changes –both internal and external – that will affect the organisation in the future.</p> <p>Forming and maintaining relationships with key provincial and national institutions, bodies and individuals to protect and enhance the council's position</p>	<p>Identifying and optimising decision-making processes in city region and other partnering arrangements</p> <p>Sustainably exerts influence within a variety of different working arrangements e.g. city region, private sector partnerships, etc.</p>

Partnering and Corporate Working

This competency is about valuing, building and maintaining networks and relationships to achieve objectives				
Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Actively participating as member of a team</p> <p>Proactively sharing information and ideas openly within own team</p> <p>Supporting others to complete tasks</p>	<p>Identifying and building effective and collaborative working relationships</p> <p>Proactively sharing information and ideas openly with all relevant teams</p> <p>Acknowledge different stakeholder priorities and take them into account</p>	<p>Proactively maintaining a network of internal and external colleagues to enable service improvement and service delivery</p> <p>Promoting and forming cross-functional teams to deliver results and improvement</p> <p>Working collaboratively to gain buy-in and agreement towards a common goal</p>	<p>Promote and lead partnership and corporate working, across and outside the organisation</p> <p>Using depth and breadth of contacts to build alliances for wide and far reaching change</p> <p>Managing complex relationships, internally and externally, to establish common goals and develop mutual commitment to positive outcomes</p>	<p>Forging and continually developing a complex network of senior-level relationships to optimise the productivity of the city region</p> <p>Focusing on desired outcomes and defining which types of partnering arrangements will best achieve them</p> <p>Ensuring the right-strategic partnerships are in place to optimise the use of public sector resources in a climate of austerity</p> <p>Unlocking the key strategic barriers to partnership and collaboration</p> <p>Exploiting the use of commercial partnerships and ventures, whilst effectively accounting for the risk factors</p>

Communicating

This competency is about facilitating and communicating all kinds of information and messages to different audiences in the most effective way				
Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Communicating clearly and effectively</p> <p>Actively listening to other</p> <p>Sharing information and knowledge with others.</p>	<p>Taking technical or complex information and turning it into clear oral or written communications</p> <p>Producing communications that are focussed tailored and easily understood by the intended audience.</p> <p>Capture and share useful information and feedback</p>	<p>Selecting most appropriate communication styles, approaches and channels</p> <p>Communicating challenging and contentious messages with openness</p> <p>Responding openly to challenges and addressing concerns</p>	<p>Communicating appropriately in response to a crisis or unexpected event where preparation time may be limited.</p> <p>Clearly articulating highly complex, strategic and conceptual information to others in a meaningful and relevant way</p> <p>Creating an environment and culture that encourages open, honest, timely and effective communication</p>	<p>Communicating and influencing effectively in critical internal and external environments</p> <p>Interpreting accurately what has been said/not said in senior level discussions and negotiations: explores the important subtle messages</p> <p>Positions the Council clearly and credibly when outlining its position</p> <p>Conveys the right messages in the right places to secure the desired outcomes</p>

Analysing, Problem Solving and Decision Making

This competency is about gathering key information, recognising risks, evaluation, decision-making to support best practice				
Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Making reasoned decisions based on evidence</p> <p>Taking a logical approach to problem solving.</p> <p>Seeking to ensure all known key information is gathered</p>	<p>Exploring a variety of options in order to effectively solve problems and make reasoned decisions.</p> <p>Anticipating the impact that decisions will have on others and taking this into account and implementing solutions.</p> <p>Using appropriate approaches or tools to gather all relevant information in order to take a decision and/or solve a problem</p>	<p>Investigating and evaluating options when making decisions whilst anticipating and assessing short and medium term risks</p> <p>Ensuring solutions to complex problems are realistic and workable.</p> <p>Following through on solutions / decisions, until closure or resolution, to ensure they are understood and implemented by others</p>	<p>Anticipating and assessing long-term and strategic risks, addressing them and helping others to recognise and address them.</p> <p>Creating an environment and culture in which people make decisions and take responsibility for them.</p> <p>Taking appropriate steps to communicate and deal with the impact of decisions on colleagues, customers and/or partners</p>	<p>Looking beyond the immediate issues and placing them within the context of the Councils strategic direction</p> <p>Promoting and nurturing joined-up decision-making – ensures key people are communicating and aligning their efforts</p> <p>Undertaking complex strategic analyses and presenting the options to senior politicians in an accurate and balanced way</p> <p>Foreseeing and managing the longer-term implications and potential unintended consequences of key strategic decisions</p>

Equality and Diversity

<p>Removing discrimination and barriers to fair access to Council employment and services on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation or Welsh language. Recognising, valuing and celebrating difference, and being able to work together to create a vibrant, diverse, just, cohesive and decent society where everyone can enjoy their human rights and achieve their potential</p>					
Level 1 - What we stand for	Level 2		Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Follow equality policies, procedures and legislation</p> <p>Treating others with dignity and respect</p> <p>Acknowledging the value of differences between people</p>	<p>Promoting the importance of equality and valuing diversity in the workplace and in service delivery</p> <p>Acknowledging and communicating that every employee has a role to play in making the Council an Employer of Choice and a successful deliverer of services to diverse communities</p>		<p>Identifying and ensuring good equality and diversity practice and remove barriers.</p> <p>Ensuring that equality and diversity are always actively considered when introducing a new activity, policy or decision</p> <p>Supporting others to consider and deliver good practice</p>	<p>Promoting and ensuring a culture in which equality and diversity is valued through fair and just service delivery and employment.</p> <p>Advocating and championing equality and diversity within the organisation</p> <p>Engaging equalities communities and stakeholders, and involving them in shaping Council policies and practices</p>	<p>Challenging and testing services to ensure that commitments to equality and diversity are being robustly implemented.</p> <p>Putting systems in place and using them to evaluate the degree to which services are securing improved outcomes in the lives of all service users: taking action to tackle all aspects of inequality.</p> <p>Challenging and improving the culture and processes of the organisation; ensuring that the potential of all employees is identified, nurtured and fully realised.</p> <p>Working together with partner organisations to cohesively achieve improving strategic equality and diversity outcomes.</p>
	Issue 4	Jan - 2018	Process Owner: Organisational Development Team	Authorisation: Tracey Thomas	Page 12 of 14

Optimising Resources

Leading and creating a culture where resources are effectively deployed, efficiently managed and used creatively to deliver the best outcomes for the city and region.

Level 1 What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
-	-	-	<p>Providing higher-level guidance and advice to managers regarding the efficient deployment of resources</p> <p>Taking responsibility for developing skills and attitudes that promote the effective use of resources</p> <p>Encouraging a creative culture, where people look for novel or adapted ways to deliver excellent results more efficiently</p> <p>Taking difficult decisions about services with the priorities of customers being paramount</p>	<p>Giving strategic direction to senior colleagues about where to invest, to disinvest and to save: clarifies the big picture context (in line with Cabinet priorities)</p> <p>Demonstrating commercial/acumen; fully understanding the financial and other factors of potential ventures</p> <p>Establishing a culture of accountability where resources are efficiently and carefully managed across all services</p> <p>Utilising regional and other partnerships and collaborations to optimise resources</p> <p>Encouraging and supporting efforts to attract new or increased income streams</p>

Demonstrating Political Acumen

Working effectively within the context of a member-led authority; understanding political priorities for the city region and establishing a position as a trusted and impartial advisor. Helping senior politicians to ‘test’ and fully appreciate the best ways to implement agreed priorities and commitments.

Level 1 What we stand for	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
-	-	-	<p>Understanding key political decision-making processes and engaging with them appropriately</p> <p>Ensuring the production of clear, accurate and timely responses to member enquiries</p> <p>Deputising for the relevant Director and providing robust guidance to senior elected members</p> <p>Ensuring that managers and staff engage appropriately and effectively with elected members</p>	<p>Understanding the priorities of the Cabinet and translating these into action in the organisation</p> <p>Offering clear and accurate advice to senior politicians, highlighting the benefits, risks and implications of key strategic choices</p> <p>Being aware of political sensitivities, whilst retaining non-political objectivity</p> <p>Keeping politicians informed in a timely and proactive manner; avoiding unnecessary surprises</p> <p>Understanding and making sense of the local, regional and national political agendas</p>

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