

# Hull City Council

**Executive Director of Housing and Communities and Executive Director of Corporate Resources**



A combination of unprecedented levels of investment and devolution have the potential to be game-changing for Hull over the coming years.

Across the city, major projects are helping to transform key sites while the arrival this year of both a combined authority and elected mayor for Hull and East Yorkshire are expected to open the door to further funding and greater influence.

The city council is now on the hunt for candidates to fill two roles that will be critical to making the most of these opportunities.

Matt Jukes, who has been chief executive for almost a decade, says the council has enjoyed a 'very stable' senior management team for several years. Two retirements have provided a chance to restructure and bring a sharper focus on the city's key priorities, he explains.

'It's a really exciting time to join the council. These are senior roles that will be critical to building strong relationships with our partners and service users in the city and the combined authority and mayor. The fact that this devolution is new means they will be coming in a ground level so it's a great time to get involved.'

'In different ways, both will contribute to one of our big priorities – creating the right environment for local people to prosper and supporting them into stable, well-paid employment opportunities.'

The executive director of housing and communities will be joining

one of the country's largest housing authorities. Although it's a medium-sized council, Hull has retained and invested in social housing for decades and currently has around 24,000 homes.

'That puts us in the top quartile of housing authorities and we have a wide range of housing, from modern properties to homes built back in the 1940s,' says Matt. 'I think that makes this a really good environment for somebody with a housing background to get involved in.'

'We're moving into a new regulatory environment so it needs to be somebody that has got that experience in terms of liaising with the regulator and ensuring we retain our focus on housing quality and performance and compliance. They are coming into an environment where we have very good relationships with our tenants and a very active and engaged tenants' forum.'

The successful candidate will



**Matt Jukes – chief executive, Hull City Council**

also take a leading role in guiding a pipeline of around £400m of regeneration schemes to completion. The city's capital of culture year in 2017 proved to be a catalyst for major investment, he says, with several projects such as the Fruit Market Quarter – a thriving hub focused on independent traders – now complete.

**'This is a very friendly and empowering work environment and city and people tend to want to stay**

'We have the Hull Maritime City projects, which are about showing residents and visitors how much the water has dictated the shape of our city. Our waterfront is every bit as good as other waterside cities, such as Liverpool, and we have the potential to emulate their successes here.'

'Our East Bank project would completely change the face of the city centre. These projects come with challenges but can have a huge positive impact, which this role will be key to delivering. We're looking for somebody to bring their own thinking and ideas and work with our members, communities and partners to shape the future of the city.'

The executive director of corporate resources will lead a new directorate combining crucial backbone services – from legal and finance to HR. It's the 'engine room' of the council, says Matt, that requires somebody capable of being both internally focused on great delivery

while also taking on a public-facing role with partners.

'We want to keep our options open in terms of whether this person is from a legal or finance background. What's important is that they get involved in their services, really understand them and enable and empower them to be facilitators in so many areas of our work – from big

how a 'sense of pride and ownership is infectious and widespread' throughout the organisation.

Hull is a city, and Hull City Council is an organisation, that tends to make an impression on people coming here for the first time, says Matt.

'This is a very friendly and empowering work environment and city and people tend to want to stay. We're a bit of an urban island but our geography is a strength as much as a challenge.'

'In many respects it feels like a large village in the way partners work together. It's not big and unwieldy and there's an intimacy which I think you'd struggle to find in a lot of other places. You can also really see the impact of the things you do.'

'There's a real opportunity for whoever joins us to make their mark in a place that's very receptive to different ideas.' ■

