

Council Chief Executive to retire

The Chief Executive of The City of Edinburgh Council, Andrew Kerr, has announced that he is to retire.

Mr Kerr, who turns 65 in March, has informed Council Leader Cammy Day that he will leave his post on 14 June.

Andrew took up the position as Chief Executive of The City of Edinburgh Council in July 2015, having previously held the same role at North Tyneside, Wiltshire and Cornwall Councils, and succeeding Dame Sue Bruce who steered the council through the first tram project and the babies ashes scandal.

He began his local government career 42 years ago, serving as a Chief Executive for 19 years.

Mr Kerr said: "From my first job as an Area Leisure Officer for Falkirk District Council in 1982, I have been hugely proud to dedicate my entire working life to local government and public service.

"I always said I wanted to finish my career here and it's been an absolute privilege to work for this fantastic city, particularly during such a challenging and exciting time. I feel fortunate to have worked alongside such amazing colleagues providing vital services for the people of Edinburgh.

"Of course, there is still much to do and I will continue to focus on that until I hand over to my successor."

Cllr Cammy Day said: "I've enjoyed working with Andrew, both

when I was Deputy Leader and now as Leader, and I want to thank him for his hard work over the past nine years in particular – but also for his 42 years' worth of commitment to public service.

"Of particular note was his leadership throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, a hugely challenging time for the Council and the city, and his role in ensuring Edinburgh paid a fitting tribute to The Queen following her death in 2022. He also played a key part in securing the £1.3bn City Region Deal for Edinburgh in 2018 and leaves us with an ambitious City Vision for 2050.

"I also want to highlight Andrew's important work with Susanne Tanner, KC, and her Inquiry team. Though difficult, and at times extremely distressing, it allowed the Council to deal with complex historical issues while, at the same time, changing our corporate culture for the better.

"Our attention now turns to finding a high calibre successor, someone capable of facing the undoubted challenges in the years ahead."

In 2021, Andrew was awarded the OBE for services to the public sector in the Queen's New Year's honours list.

The recruitment process to appoint the next Chief Executive will begin immediately.



L-R Cllr Cammy Day, council leader, and Andrew Kerr Chief Executive of The City of Edinburgh Council at the opening of Meadowbank Sports Centre



The by election count was held on the third floor of the

Council HQ Waverley Court when Fiona Bennett was declared the new councillor for Corstorphine/Murrayfield PHOTO ©2023 The Edinburgh Reporter