



Basingstoke
and Deane

News release

04 January 2021

PR 9863

New chief executive joins borough council

Russell O'Keefe has joined Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as its new Chief Executive.

Previously Executive Director of Place and Deputy Managing Director at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Russell took over as the head of the officer team at the borough council today (Monday 4 January).

Russell's appointment to the role was confirmed at the Council meeting in October following a rigorous selection process, after Mel Barrett left the council to become Chief Executive at Nottingham City Council.

Russell said: "I am joining the council at a challenging time as the country continues to battle the pandemic. I look forward to leading the hard-working and dedicated staff team at the council. As we move forward through this year, my focus will be on ensuring we are doing everything we can to support our communities and enable recovery from the economic and social impacts of COVID-19, as well as to deliver on the key priorities for our borough and provide the services our residents and businesses rely on as efficiently as possible."

Council Leader Cllr Ken Rhatigan said: "It has been great to welcome Russell to the council today. He will play a key role in our continuing work to respond to the pandemic, alongside our emphasis on providing good value services and delivering regeneration and development projects to bring a brighter future to the borough."

ENDS

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