

**Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on 26 February 2015**

Report submitted by: The Chief Executive

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
None

Appointment of Section 151 officer

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Executive Summary

This report relates to the proposed appointment of the interim Director of Financial Resources to act as the Council's Section151 officer.

Recommendation

The Full Council is asked to approve the appointment of Damon Lawrenson as the Council's Section151 officer with effect from 2 March 2015 on the basis set out in the report.

Background and Advice

At its meeting held on 9 October 2014 the Cabinet agreed to a new senior management structure for the Council to take effect from 1 April 2015. It was also agreed that the Employment Committee would be responsible for appointments to a number of senior posts including the appointment of the Council's Section151 officer.

Having interviewed for the Section151 post the Committee did not make an appointment. The Committee also subsequently agreed to recommend Full Council to approve an application for voluntary redundancy submitted by the County Treasurer who is currently the Council's Section151 officer, the voluntary redundancy to take effect no later than 31 March 2016. Full Council agreed to that recommendation on 18 December 2014.

The Chief Executive was tasked with reviewing options to fill the position of Section151 officer from 1 April 2015 and have in place a solution to ensure that the Finance Service was improved and developed as part of the Council's transformation process. Having considered the matter carefully, the Chief Executive determined that it was appropriate to engage an interim Director of Financial Resources who would also take on the Section151 role.

Accordingly at its meeting held on 16 February 2015 the Employment Committee agreed to an officer recommendation that Damon Lawrenson should be appointed as interim Director of Financial Resources and Section151 officer with effect from 2 March 2015, the assignment to continue for a period of 12 months (or such longer period as the Chief Executive considers necessary) with the intention that the Director of Financial Services post will be recruited to on a permanent basis from April 2016 following external advertisement. Full Council should note that an express requirement of the interim role is to provide appropriate development opportunities to internal staff to provide an opportunity for them to apply for the permanent Section151 role when advertised.

The Council's Constitution requires that Full Council must approve the appointment of the Section151 officer before an offer of appointment can be made. The Constitution also requires notification of the proposed appointment to be given to each member of the Cabinet to give them an opportunity to object to the proposal. Such notification has been given to the Cabinet and no objections were received.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There is a statutory requirement to appoint a Section151 officer.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A