

**Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on 25 February 2016**

Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
None

Appointment of S.151 Officer

Contact for further information:
Chris Mather, Tel: 01772 533559, Democratic Services Manager,
chris.mather@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report relates to the appointment of a new S.151 Officer.

Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that every local authority in England and Wales should “.... make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs”. The officer appointed as the “responsible financial officer” must, by virtue of section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, be a member of a specified accountancy body.

The appointment of the S.151 Officer is the responsibility of the Full Council.

Recommendation

The Full Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the Employment Committee in relation to the appointment of a new S.151 Officer.

Background and Advice

At its meeting on 22 February 2016 the Employment Committee will be conducting interviews for the appointment of a permanent Director of Financial Resources and S.151 Officer. Damon Lawrenson has held the position of Interim Director of Financial Resources and S.151 Officer since March 2015.

Whilst the Employment Committee can approve the appointment of a Director of Financial Resources, the Council's Constitution 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. Cabinet will be informed of the proposed appointment as soon as a decision has been made by the Employment Committee.

The Constitution also requires that Full Council must approve the appointment of the Section 151 officer before an offer of appointment can be made. The recommendation of the Employment Committee in relation to the proposed appointment of a new S.151 Officer will be reported orally at the meeting.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Not to have a S.151 Officer would mean that the Council has not fulfilled its statutory obligations and would be at risk of challenge.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
-------	------	-------------

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A