

This report will be made public on 21 March 2023



Report number **A/22/36**

To: Council
Date: 29 March 2023
Status: Non- Executive Decision
Chief Executive: Susan Priest

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (S151 OFFICER)

SUMMARY: This report sets out recommendations on the appointment of an interim Chief Finance officer (Section 151 Officer).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Council has a statutory duty under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to have a Chief Finance Officer, otherwise known as a Section 151 Officer. The previous Chief Finance Officer, Charlotte Spendley has left the organisation and Lydia Morrison has been appointed as the Interim Director of Corporate Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report A/22/23.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer)

1.1.1 Charlotte Spendley, the previous Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer), left the organisation with effect from Friday 17 March 2023.

1.1.2 The Chief Executive used her powers, in accordance with paragraph 3.24 of part 8/7 of the constitution, to delegate the vacant post of S151 Officer on a temporary basis to Lydia Morrison, pending the council's consideration of the matter at its meeting on 29th March 2023. The Leader and Chair of A&G committee were advised accordingly.

1.2 Council is asked to note that Lydia Morrison will take on the role of S151 Officer on an interim basis until further notice and a permanent appointment can be considered by Council. It should also be noted that Lydia Morrison has the required qualifications and experience to fulfil this role.

1.2.1 The Council must have a Chief Finance Officer in place as one of its statutory officers. The Council's Constitution requires full Council to approve the designation of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer).

2. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

2.1 The Council must appoint a Section 151 Officer to act as Chief Finance Officer. The role of the Chief Finance Officer is to:

- Be responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs;
- Advise on the corporate financial position and on the key financial controls;
- Prepare the budget and capital programme;
- Treasury management; and
- Advise the Council on prudent levels of reserves.

2.2 The only risk identified is a failure to appoint to this role. The Council would be in breach then of its statutory obligations.

3. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

3.1 Legal officer's comments (AK)

All relevant legal matters have been addressed in the main body of the report.

3.2 Finance officer's comments (LH)

As set out in the report, approval of this appointment enables the Council's statutory and constitutional requirements to be met.

3.3 Diversities and equalities implications (AS)

There are no specific diversities and equalities implications arising from this report.

4. CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting:

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Chief Executive
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The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None