

Report To: Full Council

Date of Meeting: 26th April 2023

Report Title: Appointment of Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

Report By: Jane Hartnell, Chief Executive

Key Decision: N

Classification: Open

Purpose of Report

The council is required by law to appoint three statutory officers, each of whom have responsibility for elements of governance within the authority. These are the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer) and the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer).

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That Kit Wheeler is appointed statutory Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) with immediate effect.**

Reasons for Recommendations

- Following the departure of the previous Chief Finance Officer, Kit Wheeler was appointed as interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer). A senior management restructure has now taken place and Kit has been appointed as the permanent Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) subject to Full Council approval.

1. The council is required by law (section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972) to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and appoint a S151 Officer, also known as a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to have responsibility for those arrangements.
2. The Chief Finance Officer (CFO) must be a member of a specified accountancy body (section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988).
3. The CFO and the Monitoring Officer have a role in advising councillors whether particular decisions are likely to be contrary to the policy framework or budget of the authority.
4. The Chief Financial Officer is also required to report to the authority at the time that the budget is considered and the Council Tax set on both the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of financial reserves. S/he is also required to ensure that the guidelines and ratios set down for the purposes of Prudential Capital regime are adhered to once fixed and report to Council if they are going to be infringed. (Local Government Act 2003)
5. Kit Wheeler was appointed as interim CFO/S151 in May last year. Following successful performance in the interim role, and as part of the senior management restructure, Kit was appointed as CFO subject to Full Council approval.
6. My recommendation to Council, is therefore that Kit Wheeler be appointed as the permanent Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 officer.

Wards Affected

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	N
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	N
Risk Management	N
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	N
Economic/Financial Implications	N
Human Rights Act	N
Organisational Consequences	N
Local People's Views	N
Anti-Poverty	N
Legal	N

Officer to Contact

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