

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL - 20 MARCH 2017
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the appointment of a new Section 151 Chief Finance Officer, in the light of the recent resignation of the current post-holder.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Executive Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) be appointed to the statutory post of Section 151 Chief Finance Officer with immediate effect.

3 Explanation

Background

- 3.1 Councils are required under Section 151 of Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and give an officer responsibility for the administration of those affairs. This officer is generally known as the Section 151 Chief Finance Officer.
- 3.2 The Head of Resources is currently the Council's Section 151 Officer, however he has submitted his resignation and will leave employment with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in May.
- 3.3 Under Section 113 Local Government Finance Act 1988 the Section 151 Officer must be a member of one of the specified accounting professions and it is identified that the current post holder for Executive Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) is suitably qualified to carry out the Section 151 role.
- 3.4 The Head of Resources and Finance Manager will act as Deputy S151 Officers for the Council.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 The Council is required by law to appoint a Section 151 Officer, which is one of the three Statutory Officer posts provided for in Article 12 of the Constitution - Officers

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 The Head of Resources currently undertakes the duties of the Section 151 Officer for the authority and receives a fixed annual payment of £5000. It is envisaged that the duties of the Section 151 Officer will be subsumed into the role of the Executive Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) resulting in a saving for the authority.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 If the Council did not make these Statutory Officer appointments it would fail to comply with legislation

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

- 7.1 There are no security and terrorism implications inherent in relation to the proposals in this report

8 Procurement Implication(s)

- 8.1 There are no procurement implications inherent in relation to the proposals in this report.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are no climate change implications inherent in relation to the proposals in this report.

10 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 10.1 The subject of this report is linked to statutory requirements under the Local Government Act 1972 and provisions in respect of the appointment of Officers in the Council's Constitution

11 Equality and Diversity

- 11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out in connection with the proposals that are set out in this report. It is considered that there are no differential impacts

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Date	7 March 2017

Background papers to be listed (if applicable)