

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
ANNUAL COUNCIL – 23 MAY 2022
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 the Council's Section 151 Chief Finance Officer, in the light of the recent senior management restructure.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Council approves that Richard Baker be appointed to the statutory post of Section 151 Chief Finance Officer.
- 2.2 That delegated responsibility be given to the Human Resources Manager, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to finalise the arrangements for this appointment.

3 Explanation

- 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 and/or Chief Finance Officer.
- 3.2 Following the recent senior management restructure, the S151 Officer role will be carried out by the postholder for Executive Director (Finance and Transformation).
- 3.3 An external recruitment campaign for the Executive Director (Finance and Transformation) post attracted six applications and three candidates were shortlisted.
- 3.4 Following a rigorous assessment (including a technical interview chaired by the Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), Rob Whiteman CBE) and interview (including the Leader of the Council), the Panel gave full consideration to all the candidates and unanimously agreed to recommend that Richard Baker be appointed to the role.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 The Council is required by law to appoint a Section 151 Officer pursuant to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, which is one of the three Statutory Officer posts provided for in 'Article 12 of the Constitution – Officers'.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 There are no additional costs arising from the appointments process.

6 Risk Management Implications

6.1 There are no inherent risks in this report.

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

7.1 There are no security and terrorism implications inherent in this report.

8 Procurement Implication(s)

8.1 There are no procurement implications in this report.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

9.1 There are no climate change implications in this report.

10 Human Resources Implication(s)

10.1 The Human Resource implications are contained in the body of this report.

11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

11.1 There are no health & wellbeing implications associated with this report.

12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

12.1 The appointment will be formally communicated after this meeting.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority of a 'Well-run Council which puts our customers first'.

14 Equality and Diversity

14.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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