



REPORT OF: DEPUTY DIRECTOR, LEGAL & GOVERNANCE (MONITORING OFFICER)

TO: ANNUAL COUNCIL

ON: 18th May 2023

GOVERNANCE UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To advise Council that the current statutory 'Section 151' Chief Finance Officer will leave his post on 21st May 2023, and to ask Council to agree the arrangements for the statutory 'Section 151' function following this date.

To note that the Council Constitution will be updated (as outlined below) and reported to the Council Forum on 20th July 2023 for approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. notes the current statutory 'Section 151' Chief Finance Officer will leave his post on 21st May 2023.
2. approves that Denise Park, Chief Executive be appointed interim Section 151 Chief Finance Officer pending an appointment to a post, incorporating the statutory function.
3. notes that the Council Constitution will be updated and reported to the Council Forum on 20th July 2023 for approval.

The current statutory 'Section 151' Chief Finance Officer will leave his post on 21st May 2023. Whilst the recruitment is pending, it is a requirement under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs, and appoint a Chief Finance Officer to have responsibility for those arrangements. In accordance with section 113 Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Chief Finance Officer must be professionally qualified and be a member of one of the prescribed accountancy bodies. There are no legal constraints of a statutory Head of Paid Service also undertaking the statutory 'Section 151' Chief Finance Officer role. The Chief Executive, who is also the Head of Paid Service, is a suitably qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and can therefore also hold the statutory section 151 Chief Finance Officer responsibilities.

Following any changes the Leader may wish to make to the Portfolios Executive Member responsibilities, the Council constitution will be updated together with other updates pending since July 2022. These other updates will include changes to council senior management structure and delegations, new overview & scrutiny committee structure, delegation to the Chief Executive in relation to casual vacancies, and amendments to the arrangements of the Health & Wellbeing Board following the Health & Social Care Act 2022. The updated constitution will be subject to Council approval on 20th July 2023, prior to its publication.

Background Papers: None

Contact Officers: Asad Laher, Deputy Director, Legal &
Governance (Monitoring Officer)