

Cherwell District Council

Council

15 May 2018

<p>Notification of Decision Taken Under Urgency Powers Appointment of Section 151 Officer</p>

Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To inform the Council of a decision taken under urgency powers by the Chief Executive in relation to the appointment of a Section 151 Officer .

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the decision taken under urgency powers by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Council in relation to the appointment of Adele Taylor as interim Section 151 Officer with effect from 13 April 2018 and request that she appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Deputy Section 151 Officer from the same date.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, used her urgency powers to appoint Adele Taylor as the Council's Interim Section 151 Officer with effect from 13 April 2018, subject to South Northamptonshire Council resolving in similar terms, and to request her to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Deputy Section 151 Officer from the same date.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 In accordance with section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 there is a statutory requirement on the Authority to designate one of its officers as its Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer. The individual is required to be a suitably qualified accountant holding a recognised professional accountancy qualification as set out in legislation.

- 3.2 The most senior Finance role in any organisation plays a critical role in ensuring the overall success of the organisation or business. In local government each Council is required to appoint a statutory finance officer, known as a Section 151 Officer, who must hold a recognised qualification. The designation of Section 151 Officer brings with it various personal duties and accountabilities which are set down in the relevant legislation.
- 3.3 Paul Sutton, the former Section 151 Officer for both this Council and South Northamptonshire Council, left the Councils on 19 March 2018. Whilst it is planned to recruit to the vacant Executive Director: Finance and Governance post in due course, in the meantime it is necessary to appoint an Interim Section 151 Officer. The council, through Penna, is fortunate to have obtained the services of Adele Taylor, as interim Executive Director: Finance and Governance. Adele is a CIPFA qualified accountant and as a Director has been the Section 151 for East Herts Council and previously Deputy Section 151 Officer at the London Borough of Ealing.
- 3.4 As the next scheduled meeting of Council was not until 15 May 2018, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, used the provisions within the Constitution to take an urgent decision to appoint Adele Taylor as interim Section 151 Officer from 13 April 2018 and request that she appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Deputy Section 151 Officer from the same date.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 In line with the constitution this report is informing Full Council of a decision that was taken under urgency powers in relation to the appointment of an interim Section 151 Officer.

5.0 Consultation

Chairman of the Council, Councillor Maurice Billington, in relation to the taking of the urgent action

Councillor Barry Wood (Leader, CDC) and Councillor Ian McCord (Leader, SNC), in relation to the appointment of the Section 151 officer

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to note the report. This is not recommended as the urgent action has been taken and it is a constitutional requirement for it to be reported to Council.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report as it is reporting urgent action already taken.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report as it is reporting urgent action already taken.

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

N/A

Lead Councillor

Councillor Barry Wood, Leader

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
One	Urgent decision notice
Background Papers	
None	
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