

**Urgent Decision by Chief Executive
Published on 13 April 2018**

Decision: Appointment of Section 151 Officer

Decision taker: Chief Executive

Decision Date: 13 April 2018

Is decision subject to Call-in? No

Deadline for Call-in: N/A

Is decision Exempt? No

Is decision urgent? Yes

Summary

To designate the appropriate officer of the Council as its Section 151 Officer as required by the Constitution and legislation.

Decision

Resolved

That Adele Taylor be appointed as the Council's Interim Section 151 Officer with effect from 13 April 2018, noting that South Northamptonshire Council resolved in similar terms, and Adele Taylor be requested to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Deputy Section 151 Officer from the same date.

Reasons for Decision

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.

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.

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.

The decision to appoint a Section 151 Officer would ordinarily be taken by Full Council, however as the next meeting of Full Council is not until 15 May 2018, following consultation with the Chairman of Council, urgency provisions as set out in the Constitution have been used by the Chief executive to take the decision.

The SNC Leader and CDC Group Leaders have been consulted and endorse the appointment of Adele Taylor as interim Section 151 Officer.

In accordance with the Constitution, a report will be submitted to the 15 May 2018 Council meeting advising of the urgent action taken.

Options Considered

Option 1: To appoint an alternative officer of the Council as Section 151 Officer. This is rejected because the interim Executive Director: Finance and Governance is the most senior qualified finance officer employed by the Council and it is therefore appropriate for the post holder to be designated as such.

Conflicts of Interest Declared and Dispensations Granted by Head of Paid Service

None

Information about this decision

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this decision.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

It is a legal requirement that the Councils appoint one of their suitably qualified officers as the Section 151 Officer pursuant to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Comments checked by:

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Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive