

Report of:	Charlotte Benjamin - Director of Legal and Governance Services
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AGENDA ITEM 6

Submitted to:	Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee – 26 May 2020
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Subject:	Secondment to post of Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)

That the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee approves the recommendation of the Chief Officers’ Appointments Committee to the secondment of an existing Director to the post of Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Decision	No	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan

Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration
N/A		

Ward(s) affected

Not applicable

What is the purpose of this report?

- The purpose of the report is to seek Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee approval to the secondment of the current Director of Business, Performance and Change to the position of Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

- The role of Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) is designated to the Director of Finance.

3. The Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee has delegated powers of full Council to approve an interim appointment of Chief Finance Officer.

Report Background

4. At a meeting of the Chief Officers' Appointments Committee held on 14 May 2020, the Committee considered and endorsed the secondment of the current Director of Business, Performance and Change to the position of Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, with effect from 5 June 2020
5. A copy of the job description for the position of Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

6. That Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee approves the interim appointment of Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer as recommended by the Chief Officers' Appointments Committee.

Why is this being recommended?

7. The secondment will allow for the roles of Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to be continued, prior to a recruitment exercise taking place.
8. The Council is required at all times to have a designated Section 151 Officer.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

9. Alternative options include the recruitment of an agency worker or consultant to act in this capacity (ruled out on cost basis) and holding the post vacant (ruled out as considered too high risk).

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

10. The secondment will allow for the roles of Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to be fulfilled.

Legal

11. There are no legal issues associated with the proposal as there are no other Chief Officers who hold the required qualifications to fulfil the roles of Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer.

Financial

12. None.

Policy Framework

13. None.

Equality and Diversity

14. The decision would not have any disproportionately negative impacts.

Risk

15. Operating without a Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer would be contrary to local government law and would create a significant risk in the proper financial management of the Council's affairs.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

16. Appointment of individual for a period of six months and further reports regarding the permanent recruitment of a Director of Finance, subject to Council approval.

Background papers

Report of the Chief Executive: Senior Management Arrangements to Chief Officers' Appointments Committee – 14 May 2020

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