

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Reporting Officer: Head of Democratic Services

i) APPOINTMENT OF CABINET

Members are asked to note the appointment by the Leader of the Council of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet for 2025/26 as follows:

Position/Portfolio	Councillor
Deputy Leader, Corporate Services & Property	Bianco
Finance & Transformation	Goddard
Community & Environment	Lavery
Children, Families and Education	O'Brien
Health & Social Care	Palmer
Planning, Housing and Growth	Tuckwell

ii) APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICER

Background

1. The Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, along with the Head of Paid Service combine to form the Council's Statutory Officer functions. These roles are key to ensuring lawfulness, fairness, probity and general good governance that supports the Council in achieving its aims. It is important that they work effectively together yet maintain appropriate independence and that the roles are undertaken by adequately skilled and experienced staff supported by appropriate resources.

RECOMMENDATION: That Mr Andy Goodwin be appointed to the statutory role of Section 151 and Chief Financial Officer of the Council on an interim basis until such time as a formal appointment to the position of Corporate Director of Finance is made.

Information

2. Section 151 Officer:

Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and appoint a S151 Officer, also known as a Chief Financial Officer (CFO), whose roles and responsibilities are defined in the Constitution.

3. As such, the CFO must lead on a local authority's financial functions and ensure they are fit for purpose. The CFO must be professionally qualified and suitably experienced. In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the CFO must be a member of one of the following bodies in order to qualify as a responsible officer:
 - (a) the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales,
 - (b) the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland,

- (c) the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants,
- (d) the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy,
- (e) the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland,
- (f) the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, and
- (g) any other body of accountants established in the United Kingdom and for the time being approved by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section.

4. Like many other local authorities, the financial challenges facing the Council are significant and, following the departure of the previous, interim S151 Officer, it is intended to undertake a full recruitment process in order to appoint an experienced and permanent Chief Financial Officer.
5. In the meantime, Council is asked to fulfil its statutory duty and appoint Mr Andy Goodwin to the role of S151 officer, on an interim basis, until such time as a permanent appointment is made.
6. Mr Goodwin is an experienced, senior member of the Finance team who has been performing the role of the Deputy S151 officer for some time and this proposed appointment is being brought forward to provide appropriate expertise and resilience to the Council in its financial management.

Financial Implications

7. The cost of this appointment will be contained within existing budgets.

Legal Implications

8. The appointment of a Section 151 Officer is a statutory requirement which is reserved to Full Council.

Background papers: None