

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2007

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

11. APPOINTMENT OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that Peter Searle be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer effective from 13 September 2007.

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To appoint the Section 151 Officer.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 The appointment will contribute to the priority to deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.

3.0 Background

3.1 Council is required to appoint formally, the statutory position of the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. Interim arrangements were approved by Council on 21 February 2007 (Minute 612 refers) to cover the period until all the Heads of Service had been appointed. All the Heads of Service have been appointed and have taken up their posts.

3.2 Council is invited to consider the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer).

3.3 According to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) there are five key roles that are critical to the achievement of a Chief Finance Officer's statutory responsibilities:

- maintaining strong financial management underpinned by effective financial controls

- contributing to corporate management and leadership
- supporting and advising democratically elected representatives
- supporting and advising officers in their operational roles
- leading and managing an effective and responsive financial service.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 It is a Council function to appoint the Authority's statutory officers.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Risk Management Implications

8.1 The Council is required by statute to appointment a Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer).

Background Papers

None.

Contact Officer: Chief Executive – Anne Freimanis
01992 531403