

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 25 JUNE 2008

REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

10. APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

'D' RECOMMENDATION - that Mike Collier be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer effective from 26 June 2008.

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 To appoint the Section 151 Officer.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

Fit for purpose, services fit for you

Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.

3.0 Background

3.1 The 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. An appointment was approved by Council on 12 September 2007 (Minute 262 refers). The current post holder has requested to be relieved of this responsibility.

4.0 Report

4.1 Council is invited to consider the appointment to the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) post.

4.2 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; and
- leading and managing an effective and responsive financial service.

4.3 As part of the Council's drive for partnership working and sharing resources, it is proposed that Mike Collier from Hertfordshire County Council be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer. Mike Collier has considerable expertise and experience, having been the Deputy Section 151 Officer at the County Council. He has the appropriate qualifications.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 The Council's External Auditors have been consulted.

6.0 Legal Implications

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

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The Section 151 officer is responsible for the sound administration of the Council's financial affairs.

8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 The Council is required by statute to make these appointments.

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972, Local Government and Finance Act 1988 and the Chief Finance Officer Protocol

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