

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL- 26 SEPTEMBER

REPORT BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR RESOURCES AND
INTERNAL SUPPORT – COUNCILLOR M TINDALE

APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To appoint the Section 151 Officer.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:</u> That:	
(A)	Simon Chancellor be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer with immediate effect until the Director of Finance and Support Services takes up her post
(B)	Adele Taylor be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer from 19 November 2012

1.0 Background

1.1 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. Alan Madin, the officer who currently fulfils this role is retiring at the end of September 2012. This report seeks to establish appropriate interim and future arrangements to meet the Council's statutory requirements in regard to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

2.0 Report

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

- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Simon Chancellor is the council's Head of Finance and Performance and has agreed to fulfil the Section 151 role for the interim period.
- 2.4 Adele Taylor has been appointed Director of Finance and Support Services (which includes the role of Section 151 Officer) and will take up her post on 19th November 2012.
- 2.5 Both Simon Chancellor and Adele Taylor have considerable relevant expertise, experience and the appropriate qualifications to fulfil the role of the council's Section 151 officer.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

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

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate):</i>	N/A
Consultation:	The Council's External Auditors have been consulted.
Legal:	It is a Council function to appoint the Council's statutory officers.
Financial:	The Section 151 officer is responsible for the sound administration of the Council's financial affairs.
Human Resource:	None
Risk Management:	The Council is required by statute to make these appointments.