

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of Meeting: 29 January 2020

Report by: Jonathan Geall, Acting Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Report title: Appointment of Section 151 Officer

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

In accordance with section 151 of the Local Government act 1972, Bob Palmer to be confirmed as the Council's interim Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

(a)That the appointment of Bob Palmer as the Council's Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 Officer be approved.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 That the appointment of Bob Palmer for six months commencing 17 December 2019 as Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer be confirmed.

1.2

2.0 Background

2.1 Under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has a duty to appoint a Chief Financial Officer ("S.151 Officer).

2.2 As a result of the departure of Isabel Brittain, during the period prior to expiry of her notice, the Chief Executive has appointed Bob Palmer to the role of S.151 Officer,

on an interim basis for six months. The six month appointment commenced on 17 December 2019 and will end on 16 June 2020.

- 2.3 Part 2, Chapter 10 of the Council's Constitution provides, at Item 2j, that the Council will engage designated chief officers. The posts listed include the Chief Financial (s 151 Officer). The appointment of the Chief Financial Officer is to be carried out by the Chief Executive, and ratified by Council.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 To comply with the requirements of section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 None.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 The Council would act unlawfully by not appointing an Officer to the post of s.151 Officer.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability has been consulted.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

The costs of the interim appointment will be met primarily from salary savings arising from vacant posts in the Strategic Finance and Property Service. Any shortfall in funding will be met from reserves.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

Yes, as indicated above.

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 None

Contact Member

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