

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of Meeting: 21 October 2020

Report by: Richard Cassidy, Chief Executive

Report title: Appointment of Section 151 Officer

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

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

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 That the appointment of Steven Linnett commencing 28th September 2020 as Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer be confirmed.

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 Bob Palmer, following the expiry of his interim appointment as S.151 Officer, a permanent appointment has been made. Steven Linnett has been appointed to the role of Head of

Strategic Finance and Property and S.151 Officer. He has nearly 25 years of finance experience as he has previously been appointed as the Chief Finance Officer at Wealden District Council. Steven is fully conversant with the responsibilities and the powers given to the s.151 role and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

2.3 The appointment commenced on 28th September 2020.

2.4 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

No

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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Contact Officer

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