

East Herts Council Report

Leadership Team Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 3 December 2024

Report by: Helen Standen – Interim Chief Executive

Report title: Appointment of S151 Officer

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Summary – In accordance with section 151 of the Local Government act 1972, Mathew Crosby to be confirmed as the Council's Interim Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

- a) That the appointment of Mathew Crosby as the Council's Interim Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 Officer be approved**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 That the appointment of Mathew Crosby commencing 2nd December 2024 as Interim 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 Steven Linnett, following his retirement as S.151 Officer, with effect from 1st December 2024,

an interim appointment has been made, whilst recruitment to the permanent role takes place. Mathew Crosby has been appointed to the role of Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer on an interim basis with effect from 2nd December 2024. Mathew is fully conversant with the responsibilities and the powers given to the s.151 role.

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 Leader and Executive Member for Financial Sustainability have been advised and kept informed

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No – the role was offered to any qualified applicant through an agency tender

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

Yes – The appointment of an Interim will always attract a higher premium, however, this will be partly offset by the salary of the retiring S151.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

Yes – Senior HR Advisor has been involved in the appointment and supports

Human Rights

No

Legal

Yes- it is a legal requirement for the Council to have a named S151 officer

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 NONE

Contact Member

Leader of the Council

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Contact Officer

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