

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	20 March 2025	
TITLE:	Appointment of Interim S151 Officer	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
None		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 This report seeks Council's approval of the appointment of an Interim S151 Officer.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**The Restructuring Implementation Committee is recommending that the Council approves:**

- 2.1 The appointment of Interim Section 151 Officer to Mr Jeff Wring from 1 April 2025 to 31 December 2025.

## **3 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Andy Rothery, previous Executive Director of Resources and S151, resigned to take up the position of Director of Finance at Bristol City Council. His last day of employment was 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.
- 3.2 At its meeting of 21 November 2024, Council resolved to appoint Mr Christopher Kinsella as Interim Executive Director Resources (with S151 designation) for the period from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to 31 March 2025.
- 3.3 On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 the Restructuring Implementation Committee appointed Mr Simon Parker to the substantive position of Executive Director of Resources starting on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025. As Mr Parker is not a qualified accountant he cannot hold the S151 designation so alternative arrangements are required.
- 3.4 The Chief Executive and Councillor Mark Elliott (Resources portfolio holder) have agreed with Mr Jeff Wring, the council's Director of Financial Services,

Assurance and Pensions that he will undertake the S151 Officer role in addition to his current portfolio, on a fixed-term basis whilst Mr Parker formally establishes the necessary structure to deliver finance and other resources functions under his leadership. Jeff Wring has extensive leadership experience, working for the council for over 30 years and in a Director role since 2009. He is a qualified accountant.

- 3.5 The Committee recommends that Mr Jeff Wring be appointed to the role on an interim basis from 1 April 2025 to 31 December 2025.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires all local authorities to appoint a Section 151 Officer to manage their financial affairs.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 An honorarium of £5000 pro rata per annum will be paid to Mr Wring for taking on the additional significant responsibility of the S151 Officer role.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has not been undertaken. It is a legal requirement for the Council to appoint a Section 151 Officer.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

- 7.1 An impact assessment has not been carried out. This appointment has been made on a fixed-term basis to cover the role.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 8.1 All council officers have delegated responsibility for ensuring that the Council delivers against its Corporate Strategy with regards to tackling the climate and ecological emergencies. This will include ensuring that the Council leads by example in all its activities, making the radical changes needed, as well as taking a lead role in influencing and working with partners across all sectors locally, regionally and nationally and ensuring wide and deep citizen engagement.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 None

## **10 CONSULTATION**

- 10.1 This report has been cleared by the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer for circulation.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Will Godfrey, Chief Executive</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>CV and financial qualification</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an</b>	

**alternative format**