

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	COUNCIL	
MEETING DATE:	13 July 2017	
TITLE:	Designation of Chief Financial Officer (Section 151)	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report seeks confirmation of the designation of the Strategic Director - Resources (Andrew Pate) as the Council's Section 151 Officer (Chief Financial Officer) with effect from 14 July 2017.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the Council

- 2.1 Designate the Strategic Director- Resources as the Council's Chief Financial Officer in accordance with section 151 of the Local Government Act with effect from 14 July 2017

3 RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATION AND BASIS OF PROPOSAL

- 4.1 This is a statutory requirement relating to the sound governance of the Council.
- 4.2 Under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council is required to designate a suitably qualified member of staff as its Chief Financial Officer (also know as the section 151 officer) who will be responsible for ensuring the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. This is one of the three statutory officer posts which every local authority is required to appoint under the 1972 Act and the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (the others being the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer). The designation of the Section 151 Officer is a non-executive function and is provided for in the Council constitution.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Divisional Director – Business Support currently holds this designation. His temporary secondment to the West of England Combined Authority has been agreed to assist in securing robust set up arrangements. The Authority will make permanent appointments to its senior management structure later this year. The

Council therefore needs to make alternative provision to secure its statutory provision during the period of secondment.

5.2 It is proposed that Andrew Pate, Strategic Director - Resources be designated as the Council's statutory section 151 officer under the Local Government Act 1972 to cover this period.

5.3 Under section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the designated Chief Financial Officer is required to nominate a deputy (s) to act in the event that he is unable to perform his duties. Mr Pate has indicated that the present arrangements for deputyship are suitable and sufficient and will continue.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has not been undertaken. The Council has a statutory responsibility to 'make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of the officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs' [Local Government Act 1972].

6.2 Subsequent legislation has broadened the range of responsibilities.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 None – this is a statutory requirement. The postholders referred to are aware of the preparation of this report and support its recommendations.

8 ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN REACHING A DECISION

8.1 Under section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the post holder must hold one of six recognised accountancy bodies. It is confirmed that Mr Pate meets this requirement.

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer has had an opportunity to input to this report and has cleared it for publication.

Contact Person	<i>Ashley Ayre, Chief Executive – telephone 01225 477400</i>
Background papers	<i>1. Local Government Finance Act 1972 2. Local Government Finance Act 1988 3. Account and Audit Regulations 4. Local Government Act 2003 5. Further information about the role of the Chief Financial Officer can be found in the Councillors Guide to Local Government Finance.</i>
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