

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	16 December 2019
TITLE:	<b>Appointment of Director of Finance and designation as Section 151 Officer</b>
WARD:	ALL
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report: None</b>	

### 1. THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report seeks Council's approval of the appointment of the Director of Finance and the designation of the post holder as Section 151 Officer.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Restructuring Implementation Committee is recommending that the Council approves:
- 2.2 The appointment of the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, who will be identified in an update report to Council, following the adjournment of the selection process to a date after the Council meeting agenda was despatched.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The additional recurring costs associated with the full-time post (rather than part-time) of Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer has been added to the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2020/21 provision for pay, along with related employer on-costs.

### 4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The Council's senior management structures are designed to allow the Council the maximum opportunity to deliver the corporate plan within budget.

### 5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 In October 2019, it was agreed that the post of Director of Finance / Section 151 Officer would be recruited to on a permanent basis. The post is currently covered by an interim arrangement which ceases on 31 March 2020.

5.2 The post was advertised in November 2019 attracting a field of 10 applicants, with 5 candidates being shortlisted to attend the selection day on Wednesday, 4 December 2019. Penna, an executive search agency, were selected to provide an executive search for the role.

5.3 Two candidates subsequently withdrew from the process for personal reasons and one candidate was unable to attend for interview on Wednesday, 4 December 2019.

5.4 On Wednesday, 4 December the selection process involved candidates attending the following panels:

- Partner / stakeholder panel, chaired by Mike Bowden, Corporate Director
- Director / Heads of Service panel, chaired by Maria Lucas, Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
- Restructuring and Implementation Committee interview

5.5 The Restructuring and Implementation Committee was joined by two Liberal Democrat councillors, Richard Samuel and Alastair Singleton, along with Will Godfrey, Chief Executive. The Committee was advised by Amanda George, Interim Director of HR&OD.

5.6 The Restructuring and Implementation Committee was adjourned on Wednesday, 4 December 2019 and will be reconvened on Monday, 9 December 2019 in order to interview the candidate who needed to re-schedule.

5.7 The appointment of the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer will be identified in a separate update report to Council, once the Restructuring Implementation Committee has taken place on Monday, 9 December 2019.

## **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has not been undertaken. Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires every local authority to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and requires one officer to be nominated to take responsibility for the administration of those affairs, who must be a qualified accountant belonging to one of the recognised chartered accountancy bodies.

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE**

7.1 The Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer will contribute to ensuring the Council rises to the strategic leadership challenge of responding to the Climate Emergency declaration and enables Bath and North East Somerset to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.

## **8. EQUALITIES**

8.1 An impact assessment has not been carried out. The recruitment and selection process was conducted fairly, in accordance with the Council's recruitment and selection procedures and taking account of its Equalities Policy.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

9.1 Recognised trade unions are routinely consulted as part of the Council decision making process regarding the recruitment of all officers.

## **10. ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

10.1 All issues have been addressed in the body of this report.

## **11. ADVICE SOUGHT**

11.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Director of Legal and Democratic Services), Section 151 Officer (Interim Director of Finance) and Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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<b>Background papers</b>	N/A
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	