



Committee and date  
Council

30 September 2010

10.00 a.m.

Item No

9

Public

## APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

**Responsible Officer** Richard Thomas

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### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to appoint temporarily an officer to make arrangements for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs in accordance with the law, during the period in which this position is vacant, pending agreement of the new senior management structure for the Council and the appointment of a new Corporate Head of Finance (and Section 151 Officer), by February next year at the latest.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Mr James Walton, the Council's Assistant Director - Strategy and Business Support, be appointed as its interim Section 151 Officer with immediate effect.

### Report

### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Council is required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has responsibility for the administration of these matters.
- 3.2 In addition, Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires that this officer shall report to all elected members of the Council, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, should any unlawful expenditure be incurred or an unbalanced budget appear to be approved.
- 3.3 Section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires that the officer with the designated responsibility for financial administration is a member of a specified accountancy body.
- 3.4 It is recommended that Mr James Walton, the Council's Assistant Director – Strategy and Business Support be appointed interim Section 151 Officer with immediate effect, as he has the required qualifications and experience to carry out this role effectively.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

**Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998

**Environmental Appraisal**

N/A

**Risk Management Appraisal**

The Council is obliged to appoint a S.151 Officer to oversee compliance with its financial affairs

**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

N/A

**Cabinet Member**

Keith Barrow

**Local Member**

All

**Appendices**

None