

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Contact Officer: John Best (Chief Executive) – 01908 252200

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider arrangements for an officer to be appointed as the Council's Chief Finance Officer following the resignation of the current incumbent.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Finance) be appointed as the Council's Chief Finance Officer for an interim period of six months from 21 March 2007.

3. Issues and Choices

- 3.1 The Council's current Head of Finance and Chief Finance Officer is due to leave the Council's employment on 20 March 2007, to take up a post elsewhere.
- 3.2 Article 13 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Chief Finance Officer is also the Council's Statutory Section 151 Officer.
- 3.3 The Council is required by Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to designate an officer in the Council's employ to have responsibility for the administration of its financial affairs. Section 113 of the Local Government finance Act 1988 requires that person to be a member of a specified accounting body.
- 3.4 The most senior officer in the Authority with the necessary qualifications is the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Finance), who currently line manages the Head of Finance, and is therefore already accountable for the Strategic Finance Function.
- 3.5 It is not considered that any of the other qualified Council officers currently have the experience to undertake the role as the Council's Section 151 Officer. A review of officer structures at the corporate centre is currently underway and may produce a different requirement during 2007. The designation is therefore proposed for a temporary period of six months, to be reviewed in the light of the new structure.
- 3.6 The alternative of externally seeking an interim Chief Finance Officer is not proposed on grounds of cost and availability. In the event of additional

technical support being needed during the interim period, that will be externally sourced at a lower level.

4. **Implications**

4.1 Policy

None

4.2 Resources and Risk

None

4.3 Legal

See paragraph 3.2 above.

4.4 Other Implications

None.

Background Papers: None