

NON EXEMPT

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

DATE 18th January 2023

Designation of Section 151 Officer

Recommendation from HR Committee

FOR DECISION

Key Decision: No

Report: HBC/112/2023

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To designate an officer of the council to the statutory post of Section 151 Officer.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That:

- a) Full Council designate Steven Pink, Chief Finance Officer, as Statutory Finance Officer, or Section 151 Officer, in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 This paper provides context and supporting information in regard to Full Council ratification of the HR Committee's recommendation, made on 21st December 2022, regarding the appointment of the Chief Finance Officer, and therefore Section 151 Officer, for Havant Borough Council.

3.2 Following an extensive search and selection process, the recommendation of the HR Committee was that Steven Pink be appointed as the Chief Finance Officer, and therefore Section 151 Officer, for Havant Borough Council.

4.0 Additional Budgetary Implications

4.1 None to note. The post for the Section 151 Officer and Chief Finance Officer is in the agreed budget. The appointment is being made in accordance with relevant provisions of the senior management pay policy.

5.0 Background

- 5.1 At Havant Borough Council, the Chief Finance Officer is usually designated as the authority's "s.151 Officer" pursuant to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and is therefore a statutory officer of the council. The Constitution requires that statutory officers are appointed by Full Council.
- 5.2 Following Council's resolution of 26th January 2022 to agree to withdraw from the Joint Management Team Agreement with East Hampshire District Council, interim management arrangements were put in place. As part of this, the Council went on to then appoint (on an interim basis) an officer as interim Section 151 Officer and Chief Finance Officer, pending recruitment to that role on a permanent basis.
- 5.3 Following a national advertising campaign, completed by Tile Hill, working in partnership with the Council, three candidates were shortlisted from nine applicants for the Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) position based on the requirements for the role contained in the job description and process set out at HR Committee on 20th July 2022.
- 5.4 The three shortlisted candidates were then considered by the HR Committee, in a meeting convened 21st December 2022. The clear recommendation from the Committee was for appointment of the named candidate to the role Chief Finance Officer, and Section 151 Officer.

6.0 Options Considered

- 6.1 Not applicable. It is a statutory requirement to for the Council to have a party appointed to this role.

7.0 Resource Implications

- 7.1 *Financial Implications:* The interim post of Statutory Finance, (Section 151), Officer has been part funded to date through the Council's Transition Budget. On-going costs will now be met from established base revenue budgets.

S151 Officer Comments

Relevant base budget has been set aside to fund the cost of the permanent Statutory Finance (Section 151) Officer. The salary agreed with the successful candidate is within the approved banding for HBC Senior Officer's pay

28th December 2022

7.2 *Human Resources*: This process has been completed in accordance with the Constitution of Council. Following ratification, appointment will progress in accordance with agreed policy and processes.

7.3 *Information Governance*: No material implications to report.

7.4 *Climate and the Environment*: No implications.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 The Council's general power to appoint staff is set out in Section 112 Local Government Act 1972.

Monitoring Officer comments

At Havant Borough Council, the Chief Finance Officer is usually designated as the authority's "s.151 Officer" pursuant to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and is therefore a statutory officer of the council.

As the Constitution requires that statutory officers are appointed by full Council, Committee's role will be to make a recommendation to Council on appointment.

23rd December 2022

9.0 Risks

9.1 None to report, with regards to approval of the recommendation.

10.0 Consultation

10.1 No issues or elements to report.

11.0 Communication

11.1 Communication on the appointment is subject to Full Council ratification of the appointment decision.

12.0 Appendices

12.1 None.

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