



COUNCIL

Thursday 24 January 2019

APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER (CL 05/19)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Under s151 of the Local Government Act 1972, every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.
2. Following Mrs Javadi's departure to Eastbourne Borough Council and Lewes District Council, the Council's Finance Manager and Deputy s151 Officer, Mr Simon Taylor, was acting as the Interim Chief Finance Officer. Mr Taylor was also appointed as the Interim Chief Finance Officer to the East Suffolk Shadow Council, pending a permanent appointment to the role of Chief Finance Officer.
3. Following a recent joint recruitment process, the Council have appointed Mr Taylor as their respective Chief Finance Officer, and s151 Officer, and he will take up the post with immediate effect.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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Wards Affected:	All
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Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council
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Supporting Officer:	Stephen Baker Chief Executive Stephen.baker@eastsuffolk.gov.uk
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council must make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and shall secure that one of its officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs, under s151 of the Local Government Act 1972
- 1.2 Following Mrs Javadi's departure to Eastbourne Borough Council and Lewes District Council, Mr Simon Taylor was acting as the Interim Chief Financial Officer, pending a permanent appointment to the role. Mr Taylor has also been appointed as the Interim Chief Finance Officer to the East Suffolk Shadow Council, pending a permanent appointment to the role.
- 1.3 Following a recent joint recruitment process, the Councils have appointed Mr Taylor as the Chief Finance Officer and s 151 Officer to Suffolk Coastal District Council and to Waveney District Council, and he will take up the post on 24 January 2019. Mr Taylor has been employed by SCDC since 1 November 2012. He began his employment with SCDC in the role of Finance Manager (Compliance) having worked previously for the Audit Commission.
- 1.4 Also, Mr Taylor has been appointed as the Interim Chief Finance Officer to the East Suffolk Shadow Council on 1 October 2018, following Mrs Javadi's departure. A report will be taken to the East Suffolk Shadow Council, concerning Mr Taylor's appointment to the role of Chief Finance Officer for the East Suffolk Council at the next meeting of the Shadow Council.

2 ROLE OF S151 OFFICER

- 2.1 The rules governing the authority's financial administration are set out in the Councils' Standing Orders, Contracts Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules. These require, amongst other things, that the s151 Officer be responsible for many of the obligations under the rules, including, for example, arrangements for the banking and drawing of cheques in the Council's name, which must bear the name of the s151 Officer.
- 2.2 There are also other statutory requirements for the s151 Officer under
 - s113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (the "1988 Act"), in that the s151 officer must be a member of one of a number of specified accountancy bodies. Mr Taylor is a full member of one of the specified bodies, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
 - s114 of the 1988 Act in that the s151 Officer must make a public report in specified cases of actual or anticipated financial misconduct.
 - s2(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the effect of which is to make the s151 Officer a statutory chief officer and, therefore, a politically restricted post.
 - s5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 whereby the post of Monitoring Officer cannot also be held by the s151 Officer.
- 2.3 Mr Taylor will commence his new role with the Councils on 25 January 2019. Mr Taylor's appointment as the Section 151 Officer, if approved by both SCDC and WDC, will be added to the list of Chief Officer functions and responsibilities, set out in the Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Waveney District Council's Constitutions.

3 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 3.1 The East Suffolk Business Plan expects the Council to maintain the highest financial standards. Appointing an officer to this role is essential to meet legislative requirements, and to maintain the support the organisation needs from Financial Services.

4 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is a legal requirement that the Council has a Section 151 Officer in place.

5 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no other issues.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation is not necessary.

7 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 To ensure that the necessary financial governance arrangements are in place for Suffolk Coastal District Council.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Mr Simon Taylor be appointed as the officer responsible for the administration of the Council's finances under s151 of the Local Government Act 1972 with effect from 25 January 2019

BACKGROUND Please note that copies of background papers have not been published on the Council's website but copies of the background papers listed below are available for public inspection free of charge by contacting the relevant Council Department.

Date	Type	Available From
	None	