



COUNCIL

Thursday 27 September 2018

APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER FOR SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL (CL 21/18)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Local Authorities are required to have in place certain statutory officers. One of these is the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), who undertakes a range of financial responsibilities.
2. This report recommends the appointment of an interim Chief Finance Officer, to undertake these duties, following the resignation of the current post-holder.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council
Supporting Officer:	Stephen Baker Chief Executive 01394 444378 stephen.baker@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs, and to appoint a Chief Finance Officer to have responsibility for those arrangements.
- 1.2 Given the resignation of the current post-holder, Homira Javadi, it is now necessary to appoint an 'Interim Chief Finance Officer' to undertake the duties as required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. This interim arrangement will remain in place until a permanent appointment is made, and the new post-holder is in place.
- 1.3 This appointment must be made by Full Council.

2 APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 2.1 There are two Deputy Section 151 Officers in the governance structure within the Financial Services Team. They are:
Simon Taylor – Finance Manager (Compliance) and Deputy Section 151 Officer
Lorraine Rogers – Finance Manager (Financial Planning) and Deputy Section 151 Officer
- 2.2 It is recommended that Simon Taylor, Finance Manager (Compliance) and currently one of the Deputy Section 151 Officers, is appointed as Interim Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer, to serve both Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council. Lorraine Rogers, Finance Manager (Financial Planning) will remain as Deputy Section 151 Officer. This will ensure that the necessary governance arrangements are in place, and are sufficiently resilient to meet the needs of both authorities.
- 2.3 A separate report was submitted to the East Suffolk Shadow Authority on 3 September 2018 to address the need for a replacement Interim Section 151 Officer for that authority.

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 interim 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 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Appointing an external interim officer has been considered, but would incur significantly more cost, and would take time to arrange.

8 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

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

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Simon Taylor, Finance Manager (Compliance), is appointed as Interim Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer for Suffolk Coastal District Council and that this arrangement remains in place until a permanent appointment is made to the post of Chief Finance Officer.

BACKGROUND PAPERS - None