

# Full Council

8 November 2016



**Report of:** Stephen Hughes, Interim Chief Executive

**Title:** Designation of Section 151 finance officer

**Ward:** n/a

## Recommendation

**That the Full Council confirms the designation of Denise Murray as the authority's Section 151 officer with effect from 30 November 2016.**

## Summary

Section 151 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the authority to designate one of its officers as its chief financial officer.

Denise Murray is a qualified and highly experienced finance professional, and has been appointed as the Council's Service Director – Finance with effect from 30 November 2016.

## The significant issues in the report are:

As set out.



## **Policy**

1. Not applicable.

## **Consultation**

2. **Internal**  
Not applicable.
3. **External**  
Not applicable.

## **Context**

4. The main duties of the Section 151 Officer are:
  - Ensuring the lawfulness and financial prudence of decision-making.
  - Administration of the authority's financial affairs.
  - Contributing to strategic and corporate management.
  - Providing relevant advice.
  - Providing financial information.

The Section 151 officer should have a close working relationship with the authority's other statutory officers, namely the Head of Paid Service, and the Monitoring Officer.

## **Proposal**

5. That the Full Council confirms the designation of Denise Murray as the authority's Section 151 Officer with effect from 30 November 2016.

## **Other Options Considered**

6. None.

## **Risk Assessment**

7. The authority is required by law to designate one of its officers as its Section 151/chief financial officer.

## **Public Sector Equality Duties**

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
  - i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.

- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
  - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
  - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
  - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
  - tackle prejudice; and
  - promote understanding.

## **Legal and Resource Implications**

### **Legal**

Under Section 151 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the authority has a statutory duty to designate one of its officers as its chief financial officer.

Shahzia Daya - Service Director – Legal and Democratic Services

### **Financial**

As set out in the report.

### **Land**

Not applicable.

### **Appendices:**

None.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

### **Background Papers:**

None.