

## ASSEMBLY

26 July 2023

<b>Title:</b> Appointment of Statutory Chief Financial Officer	
<b>Report of the Chief Executive</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Author:</b> Alan Dawson, Head of Governance & Electoral Services	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8227 2348 E-mail: <a href="mailto:alan.dawson@lbbd.gov.uk">alan.dawson@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Alison Stuart, Chief Legal Officer	
<b>Accountable Executive Team Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Chief Executive	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Finance Act 1988, every local authority is required to appoint a suitably qualified officer to be responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs. At Barking and Dagenham Council, that responsibility is currently designated to the post of Strategic Director, Finance and Investment.</p> <p>At the JNC Appointments, Salaries and Structures Panel on 22 May 2023, it was noted that the current postholder, Philip Gregory, had tendered his resignation with effect from 18 July 2023. By Minute 3(v) of that meeting, the Chief Executive was authorised to appoint an interim Strategic Director, Finance and Investment for a period of up to 12 months while arrangements to fill the post on a permanent basis were progressed.</p> <p>Professional agencies and CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) were asked to search for suitably qualified candidates for the interim role. 9 candidates applied, 4 shortlisted, 1 withdrew and 3 applicants were shortlisted. Technical assessments were undertaken, and 3 shortlisted candidates were interviewed. The panel has appointed Jo Moore to the role of Interim Strategic Director, Finance and Investment.</p> <p>Jo Moore (Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) has executive level financial and corporate leadership skills with over 30 years business and leadership experience and substantive experience as a Chief Finance Officer/Resources Director/Section 151 Officer.</p> <p>The Council's Constitution stipulates that the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer (in addition to the other statutory posts of Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer) shall be the responsibility of the Assembly.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	
The Assembly is recommended to:	

- (i) Note the appointment of Jo Moore as the Council's Interim Strategic Director, Finance and Investment with effect from 20 July 2023; and
- (ii) Approve the appointment of Jo Moore as the Council's statutory Chief Financial Officer.

**Reason(s)**

To accord with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Council's Constitution.

**1. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: Katherine Heffernan, Head of Service Finance

- 1.1 The post of Strategic Director, Finance and Investments is a fully funded post within the Council's establishment. Any additional costs arising from the appointment of an Interim Strategic Director will be met from within the Finance and IT budget which is currently forecasting an underspend or, if necessary, from the centrally held pay contingency budget.

**2. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Dr. Paul Feild, Principal Corporate Governance Lawyer

- 2.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that the Council must appoint a person to the office of Chief Financial Officer, being the person having responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of a local authority. The Local Government Finance Act 1988 stipulates the office holder must be a qualified accountant. It is a requirement of the Councils Constitution (See Part 4 Chapter 3 Para 2.1) that the appointment of the Statutory Officers such as the Chief Financial Officer is subject to approval by the Assembly.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

**List of appendices:** None