

## ASSEMBLY

25 January 2017

<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
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<b>Accountable Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Director of Law and Governance	
<b>Accountable Strategic Director:</b> Chris Naylor, Chief Executive	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>There are statutory and regulatory requirements to appoint certain officer roles within the Council. These include the posts of statutory officers, which the law stipulates must be approved by Assembly. These posts are charged with the corporate management and governance of the Council and include the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Financial Officer (also known as the Section 151 Officer) and the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>This report deals with senior management changes agreed at a recent meeting of the JNC Salaries and Conditions Panel, which included the deletion of the posts of the Strategic Director of Finance and Investment and the Strategic Director Customer, Commercial and Service Delivery from 31 December 2016 and the creation of a new post of Chief Operating Officer from 1 January 2017. The new post of Chief Operating Officer includes the designation of the statutory role of the Chief Financial Officer and aligns the operational and financial performance of the organisation. The existing post of Finance Director will deal with the day to day financial management of the Council reporting to the Chief Operating Officer who will be required to demonstrate financial credibility, deal with commercial operations and performance management.</p> <p>Both the Strategic Director of Finance and Investment and the Strategic Director of Customer, Commercial and Service Delivery held assimilation rights to the new post. However, the Strategic Director of Finance and Investment did not wish to be considered for the new post and has since left the Council. In accordance with the Council's "Managing Organisational Change – Restructuring and Redundancy Procedure (including Assimilation Process)" the Strategic Director Customer, Commercial &amp; Service Delivery was assimilated into the post of Chief Operating Officer with effect from 1 January 2017.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	
The Assembly is recommended to:	
(i) Ratify the appointment of Claire Symonds as Chief Operating Officer with effect from 1 January 2017; and	

(ii) Appoint Claire Symonds as the Council's statutory Chief Financial Officer.

**Reason(s)**

To regularise the position of the statutory Chief Financial Officer in the Authority, the appointment of which is an Assembly function.

**1. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: Kathy Freeman, Finance Director

1.1 There are no financial implications associated with this proposal.

**2. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Dr. Paul Feild Senior Corporate Governance Lawyer

2.1 The Local Government Act 1972 requires that the Council must appoint a Chief Finance Officer, and the Local Government Finance Act 1988 stipulates the office holder must be a qualified accountant. It is a legal requirement of the Standing Order Regs 2001/ 3384 and our Constitution that the appointment of the Statutory Officers such as the Chief Finance Officer is subject to approval by the full authority in our case, the Assembly.

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

**List of appendices:** None