

COUNCIL

22 JUNE 2022

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER – SECTION 151 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Report of the Chief Executive and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To propose interim arrangements for the allocation of Chief Finance Officer responsibilities.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 2.1 It is necessary to designate an officer as Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Local Government Act 1972) for the purposes of Article 13 of the Constitution with effect from 22 July 2022, following the resignation of the Executive Director of Corporate Services. It is proposed that the Council's Assistant Director of Finance should be designated Chief Finance Officer, to fulfil this role pending permanent appointment, as he has the required qualifications and experience to carry out the role.
- 2.2 In the event of a Chief Officer post being vacant, the Council's delegation scheme permits the relevant Assistant Directors within that Department to exercise delegated powers so far as permitted by law. However, this provision would not operate to automatically designate the Assistant Director of Finance as Chief Finance Officer for the purposes of section 151 Local Government Act 1972, therefore Council is requested to make a formal interim designation.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1 It is necessary for the Council to designate an interim Chief Finance Officer pending a permanent appointment, and to re-allocate responsibilities for the reasons set out in the report.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 No alternative options are submitted for consideration as it is a statutory requirement for the Council to designate a Chief Finance Officer.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That Council be recommended to designate the Assistant Director of Finance as Chief Finance Officer in accordance with section 151 Local Government Act 1972 as set out in the report, on an interim basis, pending a permanent appointment being made.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Sunderland City Council Constitution.