

APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

Executive Summary

Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that the Council appoints a Chief Finance Officer (Strategic Director for Finance). The Chief Finance Officer has a number of statutory duties and responsibilities relating to the proper administration of the Council's finances.

Recommendations

The Council is requested to:

RESOLVE whether to appoint the shortlisted candidate to the position of Strategic Director for Finance, Section 151 Officer.

The Council has the authority to determine the recommendation set out above.

Background Papers:	None.
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Appointment of Strategic Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that the Council appoints a Chief Finance Officer (Strategic Director for Finance). The Chief Finance Officer has a number of statutory duties and responsibilities relating to the proper administration of the Council's finances. The job description for this role can be found at appendix 1.

2.0 Recruitment Process

- 2.1 GatenbySanderson were selected to lead the recruitment process on behalf of Woking Borough Council. The recruitment process has included an extensive search, application process, technical interviews, and a stakeholder interview day. A briefing to Members on the recruitment process was held on 23 January 2024. The slides from this session are included at appendix 2.
- 2.2 Following the process detailed above, one candidate was put forward for interview by the Panel.

3.0 Member Appointments Panel

- 3.1 The appointment of all statutory and non-statutory Chief Officers takes place at Council. Delegated responsibility for the interview of candidate(s) for such positions is delegated to the cross-party Member Appointments Panel. Following the interview process, the Member Appointments Panel will make a recommendation to Council. This will either recommend that a candidate is appointed or that the Council should not proceed with an appointment at this time, including reasons for this decision.
- 3.2 The Member Appointments Panel for this position will take place on Friday, 2 February 2024. Following this meeting, a supplementary report will be issued to Council detailing the recommendation of the Panel.

4.0 Implications

Finance and Risk

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement of the Council to appoint a S151 Officer (Local Government Act 1972).

Equalities and Human Resources

- 4.2 The recruitment process has been undertaken in line with equalities best practice.

Legal

- 4.3 As per 4.1.

REPORT ENDS