

Report of:	Leader of the Council
Contact Officer:	Judith Aupers
Telephone No:	01543 464 411
Portfolio Leader:	Leader of the Council
Report Track:	Council: 16/02/22

Council
16 February 2022
Appointment of Interim Section 151 Officer

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To appoint a Section 151 Officer in accordance with section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Tim Willis, Interim Head of Finance, be appointed as the Section 151 Officer for Cannock Chase District Council.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations

Key Issues

- 3.1 The current interim Section 151 Officer has decided that they do not wish to continue in this role, so it is necessary to designate another officer.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.2 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to designate one of its Officers with responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council, to be known as the Section 151 Officer.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The appointment of a Section 151 Officer is a statutory requirement.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 Under s151 of the Local Government Act 1972, every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.
- 5.2 On 11 March 2021, Council appointed Mrs Fullagar as interim Head of Finance and s151 Officer following the appointment of the previous postholder as interim Managing Director.
- 5.3 Having been in the role for the last 10 months Mrs Fullagar has indicated that, for personal reasons, she does not wish to continue in the interim roles and is content to return to her substantive post of Chief Accountant.
- 5.4 In order to ensure that the Council has sufficient financial expertise and to meet its statutory requirements, it has been necessary to appoint an interim Head of Finance, Mr Tim Willis, on a part-time basis.
- 5.5 Council is asked to approve the appointment of Mr Willis, as the interim Section 151 Officer.
- 5.6 As Mr Willis is only working for the Council on a part-time basis, Mrs Fullagar has agreed to act as his deputy on an interim basis to ensure that there is sufficient senior finance advice and support available for the Council.
- 5.7 The arrangements set out above are interim and preparation will commence to consider the options for the recruitment and appointment of a Head of Finance on a permanent basis.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

The costs of the proposed interim arrangements are to be contained within the existing approved budget.

6.2 Legal

The legal implications have been referred to throughout the report.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Risk Management

Management capacity has been identified as a strategic risk for a number of years. This will need to be factored into consideration of the options for the permanent replacement of the Head of Finance going forward.

6.5 Equality & Diversity

None.

6.6 Climate Change

None.

7 Appendices to the Report

None.

Previous Consideration

None.

Background Papers

None.