

Report to: Annual Meeting of the Full Council - 19 May 2026

Director Lead: John Robinson, Chief Executive

Lead Officer: Nigel Hill, Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

| Report Summary | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Report Title | Designation of Section 151 Officer |
| Purpose of Report | To note the appointment to the new post of Director of Finance, Revenues & Benefits and to designate the role of the Section 151 Officer as from 1 July 2026. |
| Recommendations | That Council: a) note the appointment of Nick Wilson to the post of Director of Finance, Revenues & Benefits with effect from 1 July 2026; b) designate the postholder as the Section 151 Officer; and c) note that the newly appointed Section 151 Officer will consider the appointment to the post of Deputy Section 151 Officer. |
| Reasons for Recommendation | To ensure compliance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 whereby the Council is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs. |

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.
- 1.2 The role of Section 151 Officer is currently carried out by the Deputy Chief Executive / Director – Resources who is due to leave the Council on 30 June 2026.
- 1.3 As part of the wider staffing proposals ahead of LGR, a Chief Officers Appointments Panel was convened on 27 April 2026 to consider the appointment to the new role of Director of Finance, Revenue & Benefits and Section 151 Officer.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 Following the recruitment process the Chief Officers Appointment Panel appointed Nick Wilson the current Business Manager for Financial Services and Deputy Section 151 Officer into the new post of Director – Finance, Revenues & Benefits with effect from 1 July 2026.

2.2 The designation of the Council’s Section 151 Officer is a decision reserved for Full Council. Once in post the new Section 151 Officer will consider the appointment of a Deputy.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

| Implications Considered | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable | | | |
| Financial | Yes | Equality & Diversity | N/A |
| Human Resources | Yes | Human Rights | N/A |
| Legal | Yes | Data Protection | N/A |
| Digital & Cyber Security | N/A | Safeguarding | N/A |
| Sustainability | N/A | Crime & Disorder | N/A |
| LGR | N/A | Tenant Consultation | N/A |

Financial Implications (FIN26-27/7322)

3.1 Budget provision for this post was approved at the extraordinary Council meeting on 31 March 2026. The appointment can therefore be met from existing approved budgets, and there are no further financial implications arising from this decision.

HR Implications

3.2 The recruitment to this post and designation forms part of our LGR Strategic Resources project. The recruitment process for the above post has been carried out in line with the Council’s Recruitment Policy.

Legal Implications (LEG2727/7173)

3.3 The legal implications are set out within the report. The s.151 designation is a statutory requirement and a function reserved to Council in accordance with the Constitution.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None