

Chief Officer Appointments Panel

Wednesday 19 November 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Aspinall, in the Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Blight, Coker, Lowry (Substituting for Cllr Evans OBE),
Lugger and Penberthy (Substituting for Cllr Laing).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Evans OBE and Laing.

Also in attendance: Chris Squire (Service Director for HROD, Glenn Caplin-Grey
(Strategic Director for Growth), and Jake Metcalfe (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 12.30 pm and finished at 12.58 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

26. **Declarations of Interest**

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Aspinall	31	Knew the candidate in a professional capacity.	Personal
Councillor Lowry	31	Knew the candidate in a professional capacity.	Personal
Councillor Penberthy	31	Knew the candidate in a professional capacity.	Personal
Councillor Lugger	31	Knew the candidate in a professional capacity.	Personal
Councillor Coker	31	Knew the candidate in a professional capacity.	Personal
Councillor Mrs Beer	31	Knew the candidate in a professional capacity.	Personal
Councillor Blight	31	Knew the	Personal

		candidate in a professional capacity.	
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27. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings that took place on 19 September 2025 and 26 September 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

28. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of chairs urgent business.

29. **Recruitment to the role of Interim Service Director for Finance**

(Please note that there is a confidential minute to this item)

Chris Squire (Service Director for Finance) presented the report to the Panel and highlighted the following key points:

- a) The Service Director for Finance (S151 Officer) had provided their resignation and would be leaving the organisation in Mid-December 2025;
- b) The Council required a Section 151 Officer by statute and the role was responsible for budget setting;
- c) Recruitment agencies were engaged to find a suitable interim replacement whilst recruitment to the permanent position took place;
- d) Whilst recruitment agencies were engaged, a candidate expressed an interest in the position outside of the engaged process.

The Panel agreed that under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Scheduled 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Panel agreed to:

- 1. Note the content of the report;
- 2. Undertake formal interviews for the role of Interim Service Director for Finance.

30. **Exempt Business**

The Panel agreed to continue under part 2.

31. **Recruitment to the role of Interim Service Director for Finance**

Following an interview process, the Panel unanimously agreed to appoint David Northey as Interim Service Director for Finance. The Panel delegated the responsibility of negotiating pay to the Service Director for HROD, in consultation with Councillor Aspinall.