

Date of meeting:	16 November 2020
Title of Report:	<b>Appointment of S151 Officer (Service Director for Finance)</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)
Lead Strategic Director:	Andy Ralphs (Strategic Director of Customer and Corporate Services)
Author:	Kim Brown, Service Director HROD
Contact Email:	kim.brown@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	KBS151
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

### **Purpose of Report**

This report relates to the appointment of the Council's Section 151 Officer following the resignation of Andrew Hardingham, and the recruitment process for a permanent Service Director Finance.

At its meeting held on 5 October 2020, the Chief Officer Appointments Panel agreed to appoint Brendan Arnold as the Council's Service Director Finance. The S151 responsibilities are included in the role profile but the designation of an officer to act as Responsible Finance Officer (S151 Officer) is a decision for Full Council.

### **Recommendations and Reasons**

1. That Brendan Arnold is confirmed as the Council's Section 151 Officer with effect 6 December 2020 at midnight.  
The reason for this appointment is to meet our statutory obligation under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 also requires that the post holder is a member of one of the CCAB accountancy bodies.
2. That Andrew Hardingham the outgoing S151 officer is thanked for his contribution to the Council.

### **Alternative options considered and rejected**

The appointment of a Section 151 Officer is a statutory requirement under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan**

In order to deliver the Corporate Plan it is important that the Council provides services in the most efficient and effective way to meet the needs of its customers and residents.

**Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

The cost of employing a permanent Service Director Finance is included in the overall Council Budget 2020/21 and Medium Term Financial Plan, within the Customer and Corporate Services directorate.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

No implications.

**Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

No implications.

**Appendices**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Designation of S151 Officer							

**Background papers:**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**Sign off:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Andy Ralphs (Strategic Director of Customer and Corporate Services)											

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 05/11/2020

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) *approved by email*

Date approved: 06/11/2020