

ADDENDUM TO ITEM 10. SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Designation of Section 151 Responsibilities



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The report on the Senior Management Structure at Plymouth City Council and supporting appendix presented a recommendation that the Council approves the designation of the S151 role to the successful applicant for the post of Interim Service Director for Finance. This process follows the resignation of the current Service Director for Finance.
- 1.2. The Chief Officer Appointments Panel met on 19 November 2025 to interview the applicant for the interim role. Following this interview, Mr David Northey has been offered the post of interim Service Director for Finance and s151 Officer and has agreed on a return to the council on a temporary basis whilst a recruitment exercise is undertaken for the permanent role.
- 1.3. The current Service Director for Finance who is currently designated as the Council's s151 Officer will leave the council on 16 December 2025.
- 1.4. It is a legal requirement that the Council designates one of its officers to be responsible for undertaking the proper administration of its financial affairs under S151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That David Northey is appointed on an interim basis as the Service Director for Finance and is designated as the S151 officer for Plymouth City Council, from 17 December 2025 until 28 February 2026.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 3.1 The option of appointing a permanent candidate has not been possible due to the time required for recruitment to this role, therefore an interim appointment is necessary.
- 3.2 There were no alternative candidates considered suitable for the interim role; therefore, no alternative options are being considered or proposed.
- 3.3 The Section 151 Officer is a statutory chief officer function, and it is a legal requirement to designate an officer to undertake the role.