

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Appointment of Assistant Director for Finance (S151 Officer)
Committee: Chief Officer Appointments Panel
Date: 17 March 2015
Cabinet Member: Councillor Lowry
CMT Member: Lesa Annear, Strategic Director for Transformation and Change
Author: Judith Shore, Democratic and Member Support Manager
Contact details: judith.shore@plymouth.gov.uk T: 01752 304494
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Purpose of the report:

The Chief Officer Appointments Panel is asked to consider appointing one of the candidates selected, via the recruitment process, as the Council's Assistant Director for Finance. The Section 151 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.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:

The delivery of the Corporate Plan is underpinned by the delivery of services that are accountable, flexible and efficient despite a reduction in resources.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land:

The cost of employing a permanent Assistant Director for Finance is included in the overall Council Budget 2014/15 and 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Plan, within the Transformation and Change Directorate.

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

No implications.

Equality and Diversity:

No implications.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

That:

1. one of the candidates is appointed as the Assistant Director for Finance; and
2. it is recommended to Council that the appointee is confirmed as the Council's Section 151 Officer with effect from the date he commences employment with the Council.

Reasons

To complete the recruitment process for the appointment of the Assistant Director for Finance.

The appointment of a Section 151 Officer is a statutory requirement under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the post holder is a member of one of the CCAB accountancy bodies.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The position of Assistant Director for Finance is an integral part of the Council's management structure and the appointment of a Section 151 Officer is a statutory requirement under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Published work / information:**Background papers:**

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Report to the Chief Officer Appointments Panel of 26 February 2015		✓	✓							

Sign off:

Fin	LA 2015 0309	Leg	LT 2252 3	Mon Off		HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? Yes													

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 26 February 2015, the Panel shortlisted candidates for the position of Assistant Director for Finance and Members have since interviewed those candidates. The candidates have taken part in the Council's assessment centre process and feedback will be given at the meeting.
- 1.2 Members are asked to consider the appointment of a candidate to the position.

2. Proposed appointment

The Constitution requires notification of the proposed appointment to be given to each member of the Cabinet to give them an opportunity to object to the proposal. Such notification will be given at the appropriate stage.

3. Council approval of S151 responsibilities

- 3.1 The S151 responsibilities are included in the role profile of the Assistant Director for Finance but the designation of an officer to act as Responsible Finance Officer (S151 officer) is a decision for Full Council.

(The appointment of the Section 151 Officer/Responsible Finance Officer is personal to that officer and once appointed by Council s/he has personal responsibilities to the Council as a whole.)

- 3.2 Members are asked to recommend the successful candidate to Council for this purpose.