



URGENT OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM STATUTORY S151 OFFICER

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

Members will be aware that Sheila Little has recently resigned her position as Director of Finance and S151 Officer for Surrey County Council.

Council approval is sought to appoint an interim s151 Officer as a matter of procedural urgency, pending recruitment to the position on a permanent basis. This will enable the Council to continue its transformation journey at pace and to comply with its statutory obligations.

BACKGROUND:

The Council is required to nominate an officer under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to be responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs, a role designated as part of the Director of Finance position.

Appointing to the post permanently requires a robust and diligent appointment process carried out in accordance with part 5 of the Council's standing orders. The interim process from advertisement to appointment for a significant role may well take six months.

During this period, it is intended to recruit an Interim Director of Finance, to provide strategic financial leadership for the Council at this critical time and ensure the effective continuation of the council's transformation journey.

In the meantime, a short-term arrangement needs to be put in place to cover the s151 responsibilities.

Kevin Kilburn, Deputy Chief Finance Officer, already carries a deputy role for the s151 position and has agreed to act as s151 Officer for the time being. A further report will be brought to Full Council confirming the longer term arrangements at its next meeting in October.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Kevin Kilburn be appointed as interim s151 Officer from the date of this meeting.

Lead/Contact Officers:

Joanna Killian, Chief Executive

Sources/background papers:

None.
