



## OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

### APPOINTMENT OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER

#### **KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

To appoint the Council's Section 151 Officer.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

##### **1 Introduction**

1.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and appoint a Section 151 Officer, also known as a Chief Financial Officer (CFO), to have responsibility for those arrangements. The Section 151 Officer must lead on a local authority's financial functions and ensure they are fit for purpose. They must be professionally qualified and suitably experienced. At Surrey County Council, the Section 151 Officer also holds the position of Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

##### **2 The appointment process**

2.1 Anna D'Alessandro was appointed as Interim Section 151 Officer by Council and has been undertaking the role since 6 February 2024 whilst the recruitment of a permanent Section 151 Officer was undertaken.

2.2 The Council's Constitution, Part 2, Officer Employment Procedure Rules, sets out that the responsibility for the appointment of the Section 151 Officer rests with Council. The responsibility for the appointment of chief officers sits with the People, Performance and Development Committee.

2.3 The membership of the People, Performance and Development Committee for this appointment was as follows:

- Cllr Tim Oliver OBE – Chair
- Cllr Denise Turner-Stewart – Deputy Chair
- Cllr David Lewis
- Cllr Sinead Mooney

- Cllr Eber Kington
- Cllr Lance Spencer

- 2.4 At the conclusion of a competitive and rigorous selection process, the People, Performance and Development Committee recommends that Andy Brown be appointed as the Section 151 Officer of Surrey County Council on a permanent basis with a start date to be agreed.
- 2.5 Andy has been the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Resources at Wiltshire Council since July 2020. Wiltshire is the sixth largest unitary council in the country, serving the needs of over 513,000 residents. It employs over 5400 staff with a revenue budget of £482m and a net Capital programme budget of £214m.
- 2.6 Andy's previous roles have included: Director of Finance and Procurement (S151 Officer) (March 2020-July 2020) at Wiltshire Council; Chief Operating Officer (S151) at Cornwall Council (January 2019 - February 2020); Service Director Resources (S151 Officer) at Cornwall Council and Council of the Scilly Isles (January 2016-December 2018); Assistant Head of Finance (Deputy S151) at Cornwall Council (November 2012-December 2015).
- 2.7 Andy is CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) qualified and has had a career in local government finance since 2008 with the past eight years operating in Corporate Leadership Teams.
- 2.8 Anna D'Alessandro will continue as Interim Section 151 Officer until Andy Brown commences employment with the Council.

### **3. Deputy Chief Executive**

- 3.1 The Chief Executive has discretion to designate an officer as the Deputy Chief Executive. The Deputy Chief Executive will be the Chief Executive's nominated deputy both internally and externally and fulfil the role of Head of Paid Service in his absence, for example during periods of annual leave. These additional duties will attract an allowance which is the equivalent of 5% of the postholder's base salary.
- 3.2 The Chief Executive has decided that Andy Brown will be designated as the Deputy Chief Executive on commencement of his employment with the Council. Andy Brown's job title will therefore be Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
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It is recommended that Andy Brown is appointed as the Section 151 Officer of Surrey County Council, with a start date to be agreed.

<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER:</b>
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This report complies with the Council duties under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and appoint a S151 Officer, also known as a Chief Financial Officer (CFO), to have responsibility for those arrangements. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001, matters relating to the appointment of a CFO 151 Officer are reserved to the full Council.

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**Sources/background papers:**

None

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