

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

TO:	COUNCIL		
DATE:	23 MARCH 2021		
TITLE:	RECOMMENDATION FROM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: DESIGNATION OF SECTION 151 OFFICER AND CHANGES TO ARTICLE 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR BROCK	PORTFOLIO:	LEADERSHIP
LEAD OFFICER:	MICHAEL GRAHAM	TEL:	0118 937 3470
JOB TITLE:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	E-MAIL:	<a href="mailto:michael.graham@reading.gov.uk">michael.graham@reading.gov.uk</a>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The Personnel Committee recommended at its meeting on 27 January 2021 (Minute 8 refers) to make the newly created post of Director of Finance, the Council's Section 151 Officer.

1.2 Appendices

Appendix 1: Personnel Committee Minutes - 27 January 2021

Appendix 2: Revised Article 12 of the Council's Constitution.

**2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

2.1 That the Director of Finance be designated as the Council's Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer.

2.1 That Article 12 of the Council's Constitution be amended as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

**3. POLICY CONTEXT**

3.1 This report is required following the Personnel Committee's decision to restructure for the Corporate Management Team. The restructure seeks to continue to support the Council's good track record of delivery of front-line customer facing services, but also increase capacity to deliver a range of

projects to support the continued growth and development of Reading, alongside balancing the Council's budget.

3.2 The proposals agreed by the Personnel Committee included the appointment of a Director of Finance and making this postholder the Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer. There were also consequential changes required to Article 12 of the Constitution due to this and the restructure more generally.

3.3 The link to the Personnel Committee papers of the meeting held on 27 January 2021 is below:

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Personnel Committee, 27/01/2021 18:30 \(reading.gov.uk\)](#)

#### **4. THE PROPOSAL**

4.1 The Council is asked to approve the recommendations of the Personnel Committee to:

- (a) Designate the post of Director of Finance as the Council's Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer; and
- (b) Amend Article 12 of the Constitution, as set out in Appendix 2.

#### **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

5.1 The management restructure is important to the achievement of all of the Council's Strategic Aims as set out in the Corporate Plan 2018-21, but in particular to the aim of remaining financially sustainable to deliver the service priorities set out in the Plan.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no environmental and climate implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

#### **7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION**

7.1 The proposals concern reflecting the structure of the internal senior management of the authority in Article 12 of the Constitution. It is neither appropriate nor required for them to be the subject of external consultation.

#### **8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 At this stage it is not considered that an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Whilst the Personnel Committee has the power to appoint the Director of Finance, the status of the role as Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 officer is a matter for Council, since Article 12 of the Constitution specifies the designations of each role. The amended Article 12 is attached to this report as Appendix 2.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The financial implications of the restructure of the Corporate Management Team are set out in the report to Personnel Committee on 27 January 2021 (see link to papers above). There are no financial implications to the recommendations set out in this report.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 None