

# report



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

agenda item number **14**

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PERSONNEL AND PERFORMANCE**

### **APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The report seeks formal confirmation by County Council of the appointment of a new Section 151 Officer for the Council in compliance with constitutional requirements under Part 2, article 4, para 4.3.10.

#### **Background**

2. The Service Director, Financial Services is, for the purpose of section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Authority's Chief Finance Officer.
3. The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs and, subject to the Constitution and any resolutions of the Cabinet or the Full Council, may do all things necessary for the administration of the Council's financial affairs.

#### **Appointment**

4. As reported to Personnel Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011, the Council's previous Service Director - Finance and Trading and Section 151 Officer left the service of the County Council on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.
5. In order to ensure critical business continuity, appropriate recruitment arrangements were put in place in advance to appoint to the role of Section 151 Officer.
6. The refocused post of Service Director Financial Services, which will incorporate additional responsibilities, including the Procurement

function, carries the responsibilities of the Section 151 Officer in the new County Council structure.

7. Following a Member selection process through the Senior Staffing Sub Committee which sat on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011, and having been subject to the normal Cabinet Referral process; Mr Paul Simpson was confirmed as appointed to this post.
8. Mr Simpson commenced his employment with the council on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Recommendation**

1. It is recommended that the County Council confirm the appointment of Mr Paul Simpson as the authority's Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer.

### **Comments of Service Director – HR (MT 09.09.2011)**

The post holder was appointed in line with the County Council's constitutional requirements and Recruitment and Selection procedures.

### **Comments of the Service Director – Finance (P.B 07.09. 2011)**

The financial implications are as outlined in the report.

### **Legal Services Comments (SG 08/09/2011)**

The full Council is the appropriate body to consider the matters set out within this report. By virtue of Article 4.3.10 of the Constitution the full Council has responsibility for confirming the appointment of the Chief Finance Officer.

**Background Papers Available for Inspection**

None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All

**COUNCILLOR ANDY STEWART  
CABINET MEMBER FOR PERSONNEL AND PERFORMANCE**