

	<h2>ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY OFFICER</h2>
Title	Interim Statutory Chief Financial Officer Designation (Section 151 Officer)
Report of	Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)
Wards	All
Status	Public
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	John Hooton, Chief Executive, john.hooton@barnet.gov.uk , 020 8359 2460

Summary

The Council’s current Director of Resources, who carries the designation of Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) is going on maternity leave on 21st December 2017. During her period of absence, the Council is required to designate another officer as the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151) for an interim period. The Chief Executive, as Head of Paid Service, has made an interim appointment to the post to ensure that statutory posts are filled.

Decision

That Mr. Kevin Bartle be designated as the Interim Director of Resources (Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 Officer) as required by the Local Government Act 1972 from 22nd December 2017 for a period of up to a year.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Council is required to designate one of its’ officers as the Chief Financial Officer under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council is required by legislation to have a designated Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer). The current post holder will be going on maternity leave and there is therefore a requirement to make an appointment to that post on an interim basis.
- 2.2 An external recruitment process has been undertaken and Mr Kevin Bartle is the preferred candidate to cover the post for an interim period.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None. The Council is required to designate an officer as the Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer).

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Once the current officer designated as the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) leaves to go on maternity leave on 21st December 2017, the interim arrangements will apply from 22nd December 2017 for up to a year. Any extension to this arrangement would need to be agreed by Members via the Chief Officer Appointment Panel or Urgency Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The duties fulfil the statutory requirements for the Council's financial management and governance.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 The duties fulfil the statutory requirements for the Council's financial management and governance within existing budgets.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 N/A

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The interim arrangements apply to of the Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer as set out in section 9.4 of Article 9 (Chief Officers).

5.4.2 Article 9.1 (b) provides that: “Chief Officers have the following delegated powers in respect of all matters which are not key decisions and not reserved for decision by the Council or by a Committee of the Council:... (b) to determine employment matters relating to staff...” The post of Director of Resources is not currently designated as a Chief Officer in Article 9 and the interim appointment is not therefore subject to decision by Members via the Chief Officer Appointment Panel.

5.4.3 Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council’s Chief Financial Officer / Section 151 Officer must be a qualified member of a specified body as set out in Part 1, Section 6 of the Act. The designated officer has provided documentation to the Director for Human Resources to demonstrate he has met the criteria.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 Failure to make appoint an Interim Director of Resources to discharge the duties of the Chief Financial Officer / Section 151 Officer would result in there being a vacancy for a statutory post which could leave the Council open to the risk of challenge.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 No considerations in the context of this report.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 No considerations in the context of this report.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 N/A

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None

7. DECISION TAKER'S STATEMENT

- 7.1 *I have the required powers to make the decision documented in this report. I am responsible for the report's content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision-making framework of the organisation which includes Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations. The decision is compliant with the principles of decision making in Article 10 of the constitution.*

Chief Officer: Chief Executive

Signed: John Hooton

Dated: 18 December 2017