

Report to Council
26 November 2019
Report of Director of resources
Subject Appointment of an interim chief finance officer and section 151 officer

Item

4

Purpose

To consider the appointment of an interim chief finance officer and section 151 officer.

Recommendation

To appoint Hannah Simpson as interim chief finance officer and section 151 officer.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority a healthy organisation

Financial implications

None – funding is within existing resources

Ward/s: All Wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick - Resources

Contact officers

Anton Bull, director of resources

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Background documents

None

Report

1. Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs. This officer in the case of Norwich City Council is the chief finance officer (CFO).
2. Appendix 9a, Paragraph 1 of the constitution states that proper officers are appointed by full Council. The chief finance officer is a proper officer.
3. From 12 April 2012 Norwich City Council has delegated the finance function to LGSS. Under this arrangement LGSS provide the chief finance officer and Section 151 Officer.
4. The current chief finance officer, Karen Watling, has resigned and is leaving at the end of November.
5. From April 2020 the LGSS finance services will return to the council and no longer be delegated to LGSS. There is therefore no sense in LGSS commencing a recruitment campaign to recruit a chief finance officer and S151 officer and instead a recruitment process will be undertaken by Norwich City Council to appoint a permanent chief finance officer and S151 officer in accordance with Appendix 12 of the constitution.
6. This report seeks authority to appoint Hannah Simpson as interim chief finance officer and S151 officer while the formal recruitment takes place.
7. Hannah Simpson is suitably qualified and has been deputy chief finance officer and S151 officer since August 2017 so already has experience of providing advice and making decisions in the role.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

Report author to complete

Committee:	Council
Committee date:	26 November 2019
Director / Head of service	Anton Bull
Report subject:	Appointment of an interim chief finance officer and section 151 officer
Date assessed:	13 November 2019

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The section 151 officer has statutory responsibility for the proper administration of the council's finances and has a critical role in ensuring value for money services
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments

	Impact			
Risk management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The section 151 officer has statutory responsibility for the proper administration of the council's finances and part of that role is ensuring that financial risks are identified, assessed and managed

Recommendations from impact assessment	
Positive	
Negative	
Neutral	
Issues	