



<b>Annual Council</b>
<b>19 May 2014</b>

**Subject: Designation of the post of Chief Finance/Section 151 Officer**

Report by:	Chief Executive
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Purpose / Summary:	This report considers the appointment to the statutory position of Chief Finance Officer under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That Ian Knowles, Director of Resources, be designated as the Council's Chief Finance/Section 151 Officer.

## IMPLICATIONS

### Legal:

Under the Local Government Act 1972 every Local Authority must appoint a Chief Finance Officer. That person is responsible for ensuring the Council's finances are managed within the financial framework established by the Council. They have a personal responsibility to report concerns regarding financial probity to the Council.

**Financial :** None

### Staffing :

As set out in the report

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :** None

**Risk Assessment :** None

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :** None

### Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

<http://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making-and-council-meetings/meetings-agendas-minutes-and-reports/committee-information-post-april-2011/chief-officer-employment-committee/chief-officer-employment-committee-minutes/104458.article>

### Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

### Key Decision:

Yes

No

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council is required to appoint three statutory officers, namely the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer. This latter position is known as the Section 151 officer.
- 1.2 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and to secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs. Section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires the person to be a member of a specified accounting body.
- 1.3 Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 defines the role further by placing personal duties and requirements upon the post-holder in respect of actual or anticipated financial misconduct, mirroring the function of the monitoring officer in respect of law and maladministration.

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 The Role of the Chief Finance Officer has been undertaken by Russell Stone, the Financial Services Manager, since September 2010 when the position was vacated by the previous Director of Resources.
- 2.2 Following the Director of Communities and Localism leaving to take up a new post, the Council then had one permanent Director – that of Regeneration and Planning. The Chief Officer Employment Committee met on several occasions during 2013-4 to consider the future senior management structure of the Council, and resolved that a three Director model be progressed.
- 2.3 Interim Director Posts have been filled by John Rice and Jeanette McGarry.
- 2.4 Advertisements were placed and interviews held. Following which appointments were made to the posts of Chief Operating Officer (Mark Sturgess), Director of Resources (Ian Knowles) and Commercial Director (Penny Sharp).
- 2.5 It was resolved that the Director of Resources post be designated the position of Chief Finance/Section 151 Officer.

## **3 Recommendation**

- 3.1 That Ian Knowles, Director of Resources be designated as the Council's Chief Finance/Section 151 Officer.