

# Report to Council

**19 March 2024**

<b>Subject:</b>	Designation of Statutory Chief Officer – Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer/Senior Information Risk Owner
<b>Director:</b>	Mike Jones – Monitoring Officer, Assistant Director Legal & Assurance
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mike Jones <a href="mailto:Mike_Jones1@sandwell.gov.uk">Mike_Jones1@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## 1 Recommendations







- 1.1 For the reasons set out in the report, it is recommended that Full Council confirm the designation of Alex Thompson, designate Executive Director - Finance and Transformation, as:-
- (a) the Council's Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer with effect from 7 May 2024;
  - (b) the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner with effect from 7 May 2024.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 This report seeks Full Council confirmation of the designation of Alex Thompson, designate Executive Director – Finance and Transformation, to the statutory Chief Officer post of Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer and Senior Information Risk Owner.



### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		The designation of statutory Chief Officers forms part of the Council's wider governance frameworks which underpin the delivery of all Council plans and policies.
		
		

### 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 On Monday 29 January 2024, the Chief Officer Terms and Conditions Committee interviewed candidates for the post of Executive - Finance and Transformation.
- 4.2 Following an extensive assessment and interview process, Alex Thompson was appointed to the role of Executive Director Finance and Transformation. The scope of responsibilities of this post covers the statutory role of Chief Finance Officer, more commonly referred to as Section 151 officer, as defined at s.151 Local Government Act 1972.
- 4.2 The designation as Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer remains subject to Full Council confirmation. This report therefore seeks Full Council approval to confirm the designation of Alex Thompson, Executive Director Finance and Transformation, as Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer. Council on 24 October 2023 also gave approval to the designation of the Executive Director of Finance and Transformation as the Senior Information Risk Owner.

### 5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There is no alternative option. The Council has a statutory obligation to designate an individual as Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer as required by s.151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to Senior Information Risk Owner.



## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. Provision is already included within the Council's budget for this post.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	Designation to the statutory Chief Officer role of Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer is a requirement of s.151 of the Local Government Act 1972. Failure to make a designation mean the Council is not complying with relevant statutory obligations and that these functions will not be capable of lawful discharge. The Council is also required to designate a Senior Information Risk Owner.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	
<b>Social Value</b>	
<b>Climate Change</b>	
<b>Corporate Parenting</b>	

## 7. Appendices

None.

## 8. Background Papers

Chief Officer Terms and Conditions Committee Agenda Papers – 29 January 2024

Minutes of the Council – 24 October 2023

