

Decision of Chief Executive

4th June 2020

Present: David Stevens – Chief Executive

Officers: Sue Stanhope – Interim Director of HR

Also present: Surjit Tour – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Declarations of Interest

No declaration of interest were made.

Arrangements for the Appointment of an Interim Section 151 Officer

Approval is sought to the acting up arrangements for the post of Section 151 Officer.

The council's current Head of Finance is Rebecca Maher (RM), she is also the Deputy Section 151 Officer. The role is expected to be for a maximum period of 6 months and will be subject to frequent review if circumstances change.

Agreed that Rebecca Maher act up into the role of Section 151 Officer for a period of six months, with effect from 19th March 2020.

Reason for Decision


The Section 151 Officer is a statutory role appointed under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 which requires every local authority to appoint a suitably qualified officer responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs.

On 19th March 2020 the Executive Director of Resources commenced a period of absence from work. This meant that the Council was without an individual acting in the statutory role of Section 151 Officer.

Signature 

Date Decision 4/6/20.



Subject:	Arrangements for the Appointment of an Interim Section 151 Officer
Director:	Sue Stanhope – Interim Director of Human Resources
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Sue Stanhope – Interim Director of Human Resources
<u>DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	
<p>1) To approve arrangements to fill the role of Section 151 Officer on an acting up basis.</p> <p>2) To approve Rebecca Maher acting into the role of Section 151 for a period of six months from the 19th March 2020.</p>	

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 On 19th March 2020 the Executive Director of Resources commenced a period of absence from work. This meant that the Council was without an individual acting in the statutory role of Section 151 Officer
- 1.2 The Chief Executive is now requested to approve the acting up arrangements for this post.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE VISION 2030

- 2.1 Ambition 10. Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, focussing on what really matters in people's lives and communities.
- 2.2 By fulfilling this post on an interim basis, the postholder will focus on ensuring that Ambition 10 is achieved.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Section 151 Officer is a statutory role appointed under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 which requires every local authority to appoint a suitably qualified officer responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs.
- 3.2 The councils current Head of Finance is Rebecca Maher (RM), she is also the Deputy Section 151 Officer. It is therefore considered that the most appropriate course of action would be for her to take on the role of Section 151 Officer. The role is expected to be for a maximum period of 6 months and will be subject to frequent review if circumstances change.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Executive Director of Resources role has responsibility for a number of service areas. Each of these is headed by a service manager. For all of these with the exception of the role of Section 151 Officer it is not proposed to make any changes.
- 4.2 However, given the statutory requirement for a Section 151 Officer approval is sought for RM to act up into the role of Section 151 Officer for a period of up to 6 months.
- 4.3 In recognition of the additional responsibility it is proposed to pay RM an acting up payment equivalent to point 1 of the Director scale.
- 4.4 Rebecca Maher will continue in her role as Head of Finance.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 In accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution (Employment Procedure Rules), the relevant Cabinet Members were consulted on the proposed acting up arrangement.

6 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The budget is in place for the role and this proposal will be met from that budget.

7 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Chief Executive can make this decision under delegated powers for a period of six months at which time it will be reviewed.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The recommendations contained within this report have not identified any issues which would discriminate against any disadvantaged or vulnerable persons

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 This report does not relate to the collection of personal information and therefore a privacy impact assessment is not required.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from the contents of this report.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 There are no sustainability issues connected to the recommendations contained within this report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 There are no specific health and wellbeing implications arising from the contents of this report

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There are no specific impacts on any council managed land or property.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 On 19th March the Executive Director of Resources began a period of absence. The Chief Executive is now requested to approve the acting up of Rebecca Maher into the role of Section 151 Officer for a period of up to 6 months and subject to review in light if changing circumstances.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.

17 Appendix

17.1 None