

COUNCIL MEETING – 8TH DECEMBER 2022

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM EXECUTIVE HEAD OF FINANCE
AS SECTION 151 OFFICER**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Council has a statutory requirement to appoint a Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) with responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council. Under the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the designation of an officer as the Council's Section 151 Officer is made by the Council, and this report seeks approval to designate the new Interim Executive Head of Finance as S151 Officer following the departure of the current Interim Executive Head of Finance.

The Council is recommended to approve the Interim Executive Head of Finance, Mr. Simon Little, as the Council's Section 151 Officer from 3rd January 2023.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council's Interim Executive Head of Finance, Mr. Ross Brown will leave the Council on 31st December 2022. Therefore, a process has been carried out by the Chief Executive to re-appoint to the interim role. During November, a cross party Member Panel, which included the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, and the Chairman of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee held an interview with the preferred candidate as part of the selection process.
- 1.2 With the approval of the Member Panel, Mr Simon Little has been appointed to the role of Interim Executive Head of Finance from 3rd January 2023 to follow on from the departure of the current Interim Executive Head of Finance at the end of December. However, the designation of an officer as the Council's Section 151 Officer must be formally agreed by the Council, and it is important to ensure there is continuity of arrangements to support the Council through the financial challenges ahead.
- 1.3 Mr Simon Little has a wealth of experience in local government working for a wide range of local authorities including time spent at Surrey Heath Borough Council, Winchester City Council, East Hampshire District Council and Havant Borough Council. Mr Little joins the Council from Birmingham City Council.

PAUL SHACKLEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE