

## ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 23RD MAY 2023

## AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

APPOINTMENT OF 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 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 Executive Head of Finance, Mr. Peter Vickers, as the Council's Section 151 Officer from the commencement of his employment. An update on the expected start date will be reported at the meeting.

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The current Interim Executive Head of Finance, Mr Simon Little, has been in post since early January 2023, and since then a process has been carried out by the Chief Executive to recruit a permanent Executive Head of Finance for the Council. During April a cross party Member Panel, which included the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Leader of the Labour Group and the Chairman of the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee, held interviews with the short-listed candidates as part of the selection process.
- 1.2 With the approval of the Member Panel, Mr Peter Vickers has been appointed to the role of Executive Head of Finance, and it is anticipated that he will join Rushmoor in August 2023. However, the designation of an officer as the Council's Section 151 Officer must be formally agreed by the Council. It is important to ensure there is continuity of arrangements to support the Council through the financial challenges ahead, and the current Interim Executive Head of Finance has agreed to continue on over the next few months to enable a seamless handover.
- 1.3 Mr Peter Vickers is an experienced financial professional who has been the Head of Finance at Waverley Borough Council since 2014 and the Executive Head of Finance for both Waverley Borough Council and Guildford Borough Council since last October.

PAUL SHACKLEY  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE