



Item No.

Ward/s

Name of Group:	Council
Meeting Date:	27 November
Directorate:	People, Planning & Regeneration
Corporate Manager:	Howard Crabtree
Cabinet Meeting Date	
Agenda Status:	

Report Title	Appointment of Temporary Section 151 Officer
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1. Recommendations

1. That Council affirms the appointment of Bill Lewis in a temporary capacity as the Council's Section 151 Officer until such time as a permanent appointment is made. The appointment to be effective from the Council meeting.

2. Summary

To put in place arrangements for the role of Section 151 Officer as legally required by the Local Government Act 1972.

3. Report Background

The Section 151 Officer – This section (Section 151) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires Councils to “make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and secure that one of their Officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs”

Council approved in May 2006 the appointment of Alison Betts as Section 151 Officer following her appointment as Corporate Manager, Finance. Alison Betts left the Council on 5 November 2006, thereby creating a vacancy in this role.

Bill Lewis is currently the most senior/experienced employee in relation to the role required and has the necessary qualifications required by section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 i.e. he is a member of a relevant accountancy body and can act with appropriate authority. Interim staff are generally not “employees” in the legal sense and therefore cannot be appointed to this role.

4. Options and Evaluation of Options

- Not Appoint – this is not an option because the law requires Councils to make a relevant appointment
- Appoint somebody else- Bill Lewis is the most senior and experienced Officer for what is a very important role for the Council. Consequently the appointment of another officer is not recommended.
- Appoint Bill Lewis- Recommended for the reasons outlined in the report.

5. Resource Implications (including Financial Implications)

Remuneration, in accordance with past practice a salary honorarium of £10k pa is associated with undertaking this role on a temporary basis.

6. Risk and Opportunity Issues

The Authority will be open to significant legal challenge if this post is unfilled.

7. Consultees (Internal and External)

Internal	Legal Services
External	

8. Compliance Issues

A: How Proposals Deliver Priority Outcomes

Recovery Plan
Failure to maintain an appointment would lead the Authority to be in breach of the Local Government Act 1972.
Corporate Plan
Corporate Plan would assume a Section 151 Officer is in place

B: Other Implications

Other Strategies
NO

Finance Comments
NO

Legal Comments
Have reviewed and agreed the report.

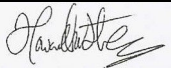
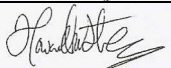

Crime and Disorder Issues
NO

Equality Impact Assessments
NO

9. Background Papers

Title	Description	Source

[Report Author, title and extension]

Name	Signature	Date	Ext.
Author		10/11/06	7377
Corporate Manager		10/11/06	7377
Director		10.11.06	7287
Monitoring Officer or Deputy (Key decision only)			
Section 151 Officer or Deputy (Key decision only)			