



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Item No.

9

Ward/s

Name of Meeting:	COUNCIL
Meeting Date:	22 January 2007
Directorate:	People, Planning & Regeneration
Corporate Manager:	Howard Crabtree

Report Title	Appointment of Corporate Director and Section 151 Officer
---------------------	---

Key Decision	NO
---------------------	-----------

1. Recommendations

- | |
|---|
| 1. That Council confirms the appointment of Isabell Procter as a Corporate Director and as the Council's Section 151 Officer. |
|---|

2. Summary

- | |
|--|
| 2. To confirm the appointment of Isabell Procter as Corporate Director as required by Section 4.2.9 of the Council's Constitution and as Section 151 Officer as legally required by the Local Government Act 1972. |
|--|

3. Report Background

The Council has had a vacancy for the post of Corporate Director since September 2006. A recruitment process, in accordance with the Councils Constitution, for a replacement was undertaken in December 2006. A Sub Committee of the Council appointed Isabell Procter on the 18th December and as stated in section 4.2.9 of the Constitution, Full Council is now asked to confirm the appointment. Isabell Procter is currently Head of Finance (S151 Officer) at Milton Keynes Council and has been employed in Local Government since April 1994.

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 November 2006 the appointment of Bill Lewis as Section 151 Officer on a temporary basis following the resignation of the Corporate Manager, Finance. The report stated that the appointment was temporary until a permanent appointment was made. The appointment of Isabell Procter as a Corporate Director provides a permanent appointment of a senior manager with the appropriate qualifications required by S.113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, ie she is a member of the relevant accountancy body and can act with appropriate authority.

4. Options and Evaluation of Options

- Make no appointment – not appropriate. Would seriously undermine the Councils leadership and financial capacity if no appointment was made.
- Make an alternative appointment – not appropriate. The market for suitably qualified and experienced Finance Directors is an extremely difficult one. The Council experienced this when recruiting to the Corporate Manager, Finance post last year and an extensive search was undertaken in relation to this post.

5. Resource Implications (including Financial Implications)

This post is contained within the Councils revenue budget. There will be a saving of £10k pa resulting from the removal of the honorarium for the S151 role being undertaken on a temporary basis.

6. Risk and Opportunity Issues

The risk of continued lack of resilience in the Councils finance function, which is currently headed up on an interim basis.

7. Consultees (Internal and External)

Internal	Legal Services
External	

8. Compliance Issues

A: How Proposals Deliver Priority Outcomes

Recovery Plan
Strengthen permanent leadership capacity in the finance function.
Corporate Plan
As above.

B: Other Implications

Other Strategies
NO

Finance Comments
NO

Legal Comments
Have reviewed and agreed the report

Crime and Disorder Issues
NO


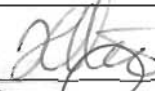

Equality Impact Assessments
NO

9. Background Papers

Title	Description	Source
--------------	--------------------	---------------

Appointment of temporary Section 151 Officer	Report to Full Council	27 November 2006
--	------------------------	------------------

[Report Author, title and extension]

Name	Signature	Date	Ext.
Author		12/1/07	7377
Corporate Manager		12/1/07	7377
Director			8531
Monitoring Officer or Deputy (Key decision only)			
Section 151 Officer or Deputy (Key decision only)			