

Slough Borough Council

Report To: Council

Date: 26 January 2023

Subject: Appointment of Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services (S151 Officer)

Chief Officer: Stephen Taylor, Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Surjit Nagra, Associate Director - Customer

Ward(s): All

PART I **FOR NOTING**

APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES (S151 Officer)

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This report sets out arrangements for the appointment to the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services (S151 Officer).

Recommendation:

Council is recommended to welcome the appointment by the Commissioners of

- Adele Taylor as Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services (S151 Officer).

Reason: The Council is required to have an officer in place to cover the statutory post of Section 151 officer.

Commissioner Review

Commissioners have been involved in this process which meets the requirements of the Directions.

2. Report

Introduction

- 2.1 A stable leadership environment is seen as critical to the ongoing improvement and recovery of Slough Borough Council. The Council has therefore sought to make permanent appointments to positions in its senior leadership team which were being covered by temporary arrangements.
- 2.2 The Council is obligated to have a statutory Section 151 Officer and this function has been combined with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services.

Background

- 2.3 This report asks Council to note the decision by the commissioners to appoint Adele Taylor to the role of Executive Director Finance and Commercial Services and Section 151 Officer. Ms Taylor will be taking up the post in March following an interview with the Appointments Sub-Committee which recommended the appointment.
- 2.4 Whilst the decision to designate an officer as the Section 151 Officer is normally a decision for full council, the power to appoint and dismiss statutory governance officers is covered by the DLUHC statutory direction, and in this instance the Commissioners have chosen to exercise the powers which that direction has given them to take decisions of this sort.
- 2.5 The selection process involved the Chief Executive and the Appointments Sub-Committee who interviewed potential candidates and made a recommendation to the Commissioners which was accepted.
- 2.6 The appointment of Ms Taylor further strengthens the stability of the corporate leadership team. Updates have been given to the Employment and Appeals Committee on permanent arrangements for the team and with the recent appointment of a permanent Executive Director of People, the corporate leadership team is now made up of a majority of experienced officers on permanent contracts.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

- 3.1.2 The post is budgeted for and there are no other financial implications.

3.2 Legal implications

- 3.2.2 The appointment of a Section 151 Officer is a statutory duty under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 6 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Council has the right to designate and appoint the Section 151 Officer. Appointment of a Section 151 would normally be a decision reserved to elected members in accordance with Part 4.7 of the Council's Constitution. However, under a statutory direction made by the Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities, certain functions are to be exercised by the appointed commissioners, either acting alone or jointly. This includes the function to appoint to the position of Section 151 Officer and to determine the terms and conditions of employment of such an officer.

3.3 Risk management implications

- 3.3.1 The Section 151 Officer is a statutory post which is critical to the success of the Council. As the Council continues its improvement journey, it is important that there is an individual with sufficient capability and expertise in place to fulfil this function. An appointments sub-committee was convened and the candidate recommended to the Commissioners for appointment had the backing of that Appointment sub-committee.

3.4 Environmental implications

- 3.4.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

3.5 *Equality implications*

- 3.5.1 The statutory post holder should take account of the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Council as a whole is bound by the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

4. Background Papers

None