

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 13(a)</b>
<b>26 JANUARY 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Interim Chief Executive, Peterborough City Council	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Andy Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance	
Contact Officer(s):	Pippa Turvey, Constitutional and Democratic Services Manager	Tel. 452 460

**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM SECTION 151 OFFICER**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Acting Chief Executive	<b>Deadline date:</b> 14 January 2022
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approves the appointment of Ms Cecilie Booth as the Interim Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer for Peterborough City Council.</li> </ol>	

**1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

- The purpose of this report is for Council to appoint to the statutory Chief Officer role of Section 151 Officer for Peterborough City Council.

**2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- The role of Chief Finance and Section 151 Officer currently falls under the remit of the post of Director of Resources and the key areas of accountability that the post holds are:
  - Chief Finance Officer (s151 officer) with statutory responsibilities to make arrangements for the proper administration of the whole council's financial affairs.
  - Lead internal financial adviser on all council projects, and principal sign off for external financial advice.
  - Representing the council on outside organisations such as Society of Municipal Treasurers, Unitary Treasurers, East of England Finance Directors, localisation of council tax benefit steering group, public health funding group, LGA spending review group etc.
  - The Council's Proper officer for property with responsibility to make arrangements for the proper administration of the whole of the council's property affairs.
  - Joint chair of the Council's Joint Commissioning & Procurement Board.
- The role of Chief Finance and Section 151 Officer was filled by Peter Carpenter, who resigned from Peterborough City Council at the end of December 2021. Currently this role is being undertaken by the Council's Deputy Section 151 Officer. However, a new appointment to the post of Peterborough City Council Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer is required, along with the other responsibilities of the Director of Resources, and until such time as permanent recruitment is considered, there is an immediate need to ensure capacity remains within Finance to focus on the Improvement Plan delivery. Therefore, this report sets out the temporary appointment to an interim position.

- 2.3 Cecilie Booth qualified with Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in 1998. She began her career with the NHS as an internal auditor, then moved to local government as Head of Finance at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in the 1990s, before moving onto what was then Macclesfield Borough Council, as Finance Director, in 2004.

In 2006, Cecilie moved into the private sector, working for Capita as a Financial Consultant for ten years, advising local authorities on capital finance and investment. She then worked with treasury advisors Arlingclose, before moving onto temporary roles with a number of councils, including Cherwell District Council, South Northamptonshire Council (as Finance Director), Newham Council, and Surrey County Council.

Cecilie then joined City of London Police where she most recently worked as a Chief Operating and Chief Financial Officer.

### **3. REGULATIONS**

- 3.1 Under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, it is stated:

“Without prejudice to section 111 above, every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.”

- 3.2 Section 6 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, further states:

“(1) On and after the commencement day the Common Council shall –

(a) make arrangements for the proper administration of such of its financial affairs as relate to it in its capacity as a local authority, police authority or port health authority, and

(b) secure that one of its officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.”

- 3.3 Part 3, Delegations Section 1 - Functions Reserved to the Council, paragraph 1.3.8 of the Council’s Constitution states that it is the Council’s responsibility to appoint ‘proper officers’. The role of Chief Finance Officer is a statutory Chief Officer of the Council, and a ‘proper officer’ for this purpose.

- 3.4 Section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires that the officer appointed as the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) must be a member of a specified accountancy body.

### **4. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Due to the timing of the resignation in the current financial year there is no existing budget for this role. The additional costs to the 2021/22 budget is estimated to be £60,500 and this cost will be met from reserves.

#### **Legal Implications**

- 4.2 The role of Chief Finance Officer is a statutory requirement.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001, matters relating to the appointment of a S151 Officer are reserved to Council.

#### **Equalities Implications**

- 4.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

## **Carbon Impact Assessment**

4.4 There are no carbon impact implications arising from this report.

### **5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5.1 Local Government Act 1972  
Local Government Finance Act 1988  
Local Government and Housing Act 1989  
Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001  
Peterborough City Council Constitution

### **6. APPENDICES**

6.1 None

This page is intentionally left blank