

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 9(a)
1 NOVEMBER 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Matt Gladstone, Head of Paid Service	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Matt Gladstone, Head of Paid Service	Tel. 01733 863607

APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Matt Gladstone, Head of Paid Service	Deadline date: Full Council 1 November 2023
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the appointment of Cecilie Booth as the permanent Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer for Peterborough City Council. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 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

2.1 The role of Chief Finance and Section 151 Officer currently falls under the remit of the post of Executive Director of Coporate Services 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.

2.2 The role of Chief Finance and Section 151 Officer has been filled by Ms Booth on a temporary basis since January 2022. Following a meeting on 24th October 2023, the Council's Employment Committee have recommended that Full Council appoint Ms Booth on a permanent basis to the role of Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer

2.3 Ms 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, Ms Booth 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.

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

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The Sustainable Future City Council Strategy and City Priorities provide the vision for Peterborough. The delivery and achievement of both rely on a high performing leadership team.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's constitution, Employment Committee considered the proposal by the Head of Paid Service to appoint Ms Booth to the role and agreed to recommend approval to Full Council.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are not expected to be any material financial implications as a result of this appointment, as it will maintain the existing financial position by making the appointment permanent. This will provide financial certainty going forward and mitigates the need to incur additional recruitment costs.

Legal Implications

- 5.2 The role of Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer is a statutory requirement.

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

Equalities Implications

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

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 6.1 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

7. APPENDICES

- 7.1 None