



**Report for: Chief Officers'  
Employment Panel**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	20 March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Recruitment of the Director of Finance & Assurance (S151 Officer)
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Alex Dewsnap – Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1 – Role Profile for the Director of Finance & Assurance (S151 Officer)

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

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This report outlines the recruitment process for the Director of Finance and Assurance (S151 Officer). The Panel is requested to approve the recruitment process and remuneration package for advertising.

### **Recommendations:**

The Panel is requested to:

- Approve the appointment process for the Director of Finance and Assurance (S151 Officer) post and the remuneration package of £132,168 - £145,575 (D3).

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Director of Finance and Assurance (S151 Officer)**

The Director of Finance and Assurance (Section 151 Officer) post is a statutory role for the Council and holds significant responsibilities in how the Council manages and delivers services to residents. The previous permanent post holder resigned and left the Council in August 2023. An interim arrangement was put in place to ensure the Council could fulfil its statutory responsibilities, allowing the Head of Strategic and Technical Finance to act up into the Director of Finance and Assurance post and be designated Section 151 Officer until the permanent recruitment process is completed.

The proposal is to advertise the post on the London Borough of Harrow jobs page and associated job boards for three weeks in line with the Council's recruitment practices. Suitable candidates will be shortlisted by a panel chaired by the Managing Director (Head of Paid Service) and an external Technical Specialist who is a current Director of Finance and Assurance post holder within London. The interview and decision to appoint will then be carried out by the Panel.

### **Legal Implications**

The Chief Officers' Employment Panel has delegated powers to:

- Approve remuneration packages of £100,000 or over for any Council post; and
- To appoint Chief Officers.

The Director of Finance and Assurance (S151 Officer) is a statutory role and full Council will be required to designate to this post before it is offered to the successful candidate following the recommendation from the Panel.

As the Director of Finance and Assurance will be the S151 Officer, an offer of employment can only be made once members of the Executive have been given 5 clear working days to express any material and well-founded objection.

The Panel is also required to report to Council, for information purposes, on all such approved remuneration packages.

## **Financial Implications**

The Director of Finance and Assurance (S151 Officer) role is graded at D3, £132,168 - £145,575. The cost of this post, which is budgeted for, and part of the establishment, is £180,211 - £198,564 (including employers oncosts).

## **Risk Management Implications**

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? **No**

Separate risk register in place? **No**

The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below. **n/a**

## **Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty**

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? **No**

- One of the responsibilities of this postholder is to promote equality, diversity and inclusion and the reduction of inequalities, ensuring that everyone can contribute through everyday actions to deliver the required health and wellbeing outcomes.

## **Council Priorities**

1. **A council that puts residents first**
2. **A borough that is clean and safe**
3. **A place where those in need are supported**

## **Section 3 – Statutory Officer Clearance**

**Statutory Officer: Jessie Man**

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

**Date: 05/03/2024**

**Statutory Officer: Caroline Eccles**

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 06/03/2024**

**Chief Officer: Alex Dewsnap**

Signed by the Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)

**Date: 07/03/2024**

## **Mandatory Checks**

**Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards**

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Akhil Wilson, Head of Resourcing, Akhil.wilson@harrow.gov.uk

**Background Papers:** None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

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|-----------------|----|
| 1. Consultation | NO |
| 2. Priorities   | NO |