

# Report to Council

**12 December 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	Designation of interim statutory chief officer
<b>Director:</b>	Mike Jones – Assistant Director Legal & Assurance
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mike Jones Mike_Jones1@sandwell.gov.uk

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 For the reasons set out in the report, it is recommended that Full Council confirm the designation of Brendan Arnold, Interim Finance Director as the Council’s Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 This report seeks Full Council confirmation of the interim designation of Brendan Arnold to the statutory Chief Officer post of Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer.

## 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		The designation of statutory Chief Officers forms part of the Council’s wider governance frameworks which underpin the delivery of all Council plans and policies.
		
		



## 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Members will be aware that Brendan Arnold was appointed to the role of Interim Finance Director in September 2023. The scope of responsibilities of this post extend to cover the statutory role of Chief Finance Officer, more commonly referred to as Section 151 officer, as defined at s.151 Local Government Act 1972.
- 4.2 The interim designation as Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer whilst made under delegation remains subject to Full Council confirmation. This report therefore seeks Full Council approval to confirm the designation of Brendan Arnold, Interim Finance Director as Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer.

## 5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There is no alternative option. The Council has a statutory obligation to designate an individual as Section 151 Officer/Chief Finance Officer as required by s.151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. Provision is already included within the Council's budget for this post.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	Designation to the statutory Chief Officer role of Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer is a requirement of s.151 of the Local Government Act 1972. Failure to make a designation mean the Council is not complying with relevant statutory obligations and that these functions will not be capable of lawful discharge.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no direct implications arising from this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	
<b>Social Value</b>	
<b>Climate Change</b>	
<b>Corporate Parenting</b>	



**7. Appendices**

None.

**8. Background Papers**

None.

