

Council – 23rd February 2009

Designation of Statutory Officer posts

1. Summary of report

1.1 Director of Children's Services

As members will be aware, the Executive Director, Children's Services left the Council on 20th February 2009 and accordingly it is necessary to designate to the statutory post of Director of Children's Services under the provisions of the Children Act, 2004.

1.2 Section 151 Chief Finance Officer

Members will recall that in September 2007, due to the departure of the then Executive Director for Corporate Services, the Council designated the Assistant Director, Finance to the statutory post of Section 151 Chief Finance Officer for the foreseeable pending future decisions on the recruitment to the post of Executive Director for Corporate Services. An appointment has now been made to that post and a decision is now required on the permanent designation of the Section 151 Chief Finance Officer.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the nominated Deputy Director of Children's Services be designated as Interim Executive Director, Children's Services until such time as a new Executive Director, Children's Services is appointed.
- 2.2 That the post of Assistant Director of Finance be designated permanently as Section 151 Chief Finance Officer.

3. Resource considerations

- 3.1 **Financial:** All costs are contained within existing budgets.
- 3.2 **Legal:** The designated posts are necessary to ensure compliance with the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 and the Children Act, 2004, respectively.

4. Performance and risk management issues

- 4.1 The Children Act, 2004 places a duty on every Children's Services Authority in England to appoint a Director of Children's Services (Section 18(1) of the Act). Statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State requires that Children's Services Authorities must have regard to such guidance as issued in exercising their functions under that section of the Act.

- 4.2 The Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 requires each local authority to designate a post of Finance Officer. The Section 151 Officer has responsibility for exercising functions under Section 151 of the Local Government Act, 1972 in respect of the administration of the authority's financial affairs.

Background papers

Local Government Act, 1972

Local Government and Housing Act, 1980

Children Act 2004

Walsall Council Constitution

Author

John Garner

Constitutional Services Manager

☎ 653500

✉ garnerj@walsall.gov.uk

Signed:

Assistant Director Legal and
Constitutional Services

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