

**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Appointment of Interim Section 151 Officer

**Meeting/Date:** Council – 15 October 2025

**Report by:** Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

Local Authorities have a duty under Section 151 of the Local Government Act to 'make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall ensure that one of their Officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs'. The functions of the Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer have been undertaken by the Corporate Director for Finance and Resources.

Following the announcement of the departure of the Corporate Director for Finance and Resources, there is a need to put in place an interim arrangement. This report seeks the Council's formal approval to this proposal.

The Head of Paid Service has appointed a Finance Lead and it is intended that the Finance Lead will step up immediately into the role of Section 151 Officer following the departure of the Corporate Director for Finance and Resources on 24th October 2025.

The Senior Officers' Committee met on 14th October 2025 and recommended that Lydia Morrison should be appointed as the Interim Section 151 Officer from 25th October 2025.

### **Recommendation:**

The Council is

### **RECOMMENDED**

**that Lydia Morrison, be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer on an interim basis, effective from 25th October 2025 until the formal appointment of a permanent Officer in post.**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Local Authorities have a duty under Section 151 of the Local Government Act to 'make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall ensure that one of their Officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs'. The functions of the Chief Financial Officer / Section 151 Officer are currently undertaken by the Corporate Director for Finance and Resources who is leaving the Council's service on 24th October 2025.
- 1.2 Article 12 of the Council's Constitution describes the functions of the Chief Financial Officer / Section 151 Officer.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?**

- 2.1 The Council is required to designate one of its officers as the Chief Financial Officer under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. This appointment must be made by full Council.
- 2.2 The functions of the Chief Financial Officer / Section 151 Officer are currently undertaken by the Corporate Director for Finance and Resources.
- 2.3 It is a legal requirement that the Council has a Section 151 Officer in place and Section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires the Chief Financial Officer to be a member of one of the six chartered accountancy bodies in Great Britain and Ireland.

## **3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 3.1 This proposal enables the Council to fulfil its duty to appoint an Officer who is responsible for the Council's financial affairs and ensure that the necessary governance arrangements are in place for Huntingdonshire District Council.

## **4. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The District Council's Constitution

### **CONTACT OFFICER**

Name/Job Title: Michelle Sacks, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service &  
Email: [michelle.sacks@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.sacks@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)