

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

4th September 2025

Report Title: Appointment of Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer

Submitted by: Service Director for Strategy, People and Performance

Portfolios: All

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To seek the Council's formal agreement to the appointment of the Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer			
<u>Recommendation</u> That Council:- 1) Approve the appointment of Craig Turner as the Council's Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer 2) That Mr Turner be appointed on a salary of £63,510.68 per annum with an additional £10, 000 per annum Statutory Officer allowance			
<u>Reasons</u> 1) Under Pt VIII of the Local government Act 1972 the Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Section 151 Officer. 2) In line with the constitution; the appointment of the Council's Section 151 Officer is a matter for decision by full Council			

1. Background

- 1.1** The Council has carried out an external and internal recruitment campaign to recruit its new Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer. There were 4 applicants from both within our sector and others. A panel representative of the Employment Committee conducted a final interview on 16th September 2025
- 1.2** The Interview Panel, chaired by the leader of the panel and acting as a sub-committee of the Employment Committee reached the unanimous decision to recommend to Full Council that Mr Turner be appointed as the new Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer.
- 1.3** Full Council is now asked to formally agree to the appointment of Mr Turner as Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Current Section 151 Officer, Sarah Wilkes has handed in her resignation and will leave the Authority in October 2025. We have a statutory obligation to employ a Section 151 Officer.

3. Recommendation

That Council:-

- 3.1 Approve the appointment of Mr Turner as the Council's Service Director for Finance and Section 151 Officer such appointment to commence from 15th October 2025
- 3.2 That Mr Turner be appointed on a salary of £63,510.68 per annum with an additional £10, 000 per annum Statutory Officer allowance

4. Reasons

- 4.1 Under Pt VIII of the Local government Act 1972 the Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Section 151 Officer

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 A full and robust selection process was undertaken with Mr Turner emerging as the preferred candidate.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 Under Pt VIII of the Local government Act 1972 the Council has a statutory duty to appoint a Section 151 Officer

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The selection process undertaken was fair and equitable

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 No additional costs

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1 No risks identified

10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)



11. Key Decision Information

11.1 n/a

12. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

12.1 n/a

13. List of Appendices

13.1 n/a

14. Background Papers

14.1 n/a