

# **NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL**

**24<sup>th</sup> 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

<b><u>Purpose of the Report</u></b>	<b><u>Key Decision</u></b>	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.			
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>  That Council:-  1) Approves 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			
<b><u>Reasons</u></b>  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 the local authority sector and others. A panel drawn from the Employment Committee conducted a final interview on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- 1.2** The Interview Panel, chaired by the Leader of the Council, 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 The current Section 151 Officer, Sarah Wilkes has resigned to take another role external to the Council, and will leave the Authority in October 2025. The Council has 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 There are no additional costs associated with this appointment, which is within the Council's establishment.

## 9. **Major Risks & Mitigation**

- 9.1 No risks identified

## 10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**



## 11. One Council

11.1 Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council ☒  
*We will make investment to diversify our income and think entrepreneurially.*

One Digital Council ☒  
*We will develop and implement a digital approach which makes it easy for all residents and businesses to engage with the Council, with our customers at the heart of every interaction.*

One Sustainable Council ☒  
*We will deliver on our commitments to a net zero future and make all decisions with sustainability as a driving principle*

11.2 The management and leadership of an effective Finance function is required to support all financial and efficiency decisions which fall within the remit of the above programmes.

## 12. Key Decision Information

12.1 Not applicable

## 13. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

13.1 Not applicable

## 14. List of Appendices

14.1 None

## 15. Background Papers

15.1 None