

6. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (A13/RMM)

Purpose of the report

1. Members are asked to extend and make permanent the current arrangements for the appointment of the Chief Finance Officer.

Recommendations

2.
 1. That the current post holder's appointment as Chief Finance Officer be extended from 1 March 2011 on a permanent basis.
 2. That as the appointment is not attached to the post of Head of Finance a special responsibility allowance continues to be paid, on the current basis, in recognition of carrying out this additional contractual role.

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

3. The Chief Finance Officer (CFO) is an appointment required by S.151 of the Local Government Finance Act 1972. Details of the role and responsibilities of the CFO are given at Appendix 1. The appointment contributes to achieving corporate objective 11.1 'ensure continuous improvement, value for money, sustainability and high standards of corporate governance'.

Background

4. The current Head of Finance was appointed by the Authority to the CFO role from 1 March 2007 for a period of four years to 1 March 2011 after a competitive process (minute ref: 17/07). The payment of a special responsibility allowance was agreed in recognition of carrying out this additional contractual role as the appointment is personal to the current post holder and not attached to the Head of Finance post. This gives the Authority the flexibility to appoint differently to the two roles (CFO and Head of Finance) in the future if the current post holder left the Authority's employment.
5. The CFO appointment has been reviewed annually between the post holder and the Director of Corporate Resources since 2007. These discussions have taken account of the positive feedback received from members, managers and staff on the excellent service the Authority has received through the current appointment during a period of challenge requiring considerable CFO input e.g. minerals, externally funded partnerships, medium and long term financial planning. External assurances from district auditors and the recent NPAPA (national park authorities performance assessment) also feed into these annual reviews.

Proposals

6. We are now required to make arrangements for the CFO appointment from 1 March 2011. In light of the satisfaction over the current arrangements it is proposed:
 - a) that the current post holder's appointment as CFO be extended from 1 March 2011 on a permanent basis
 - b) that the appointment continues to be on a personal basis recompensed through a special responsibility allowance but would end and be reviewed if the post holder left the Authority's employment as Head of Finance

c) that the arrangements for the payment of the special responsibility allowance (currently standing at £3,722) continue with payments linked to the annual inflation increase in pay awards and part of pensionable pay

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

7. **Financial:** The payment of the special responsibility allowance is covered in the current budget. There is no extra cost to the recommendation.
8. **Risk Management:** The CFO plays a crucial role in helping to identify and manage risks to the Authority.
9. **Sustainability:** No issues to highlight.
10. **Background papers** (not previously published) - None
11. **Appendices:**
Appendix 1: The role and responsibility of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Ruth Marchington, Director of Corporate Resources, 25 November 2010