

## Rother District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	26 February 2024
<b>Report of:</b>	Lorna Ford, Chief Executive
<b>Subject:</b>	Designation of Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer)

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**Recommendation:** It be **RESOLVED:** That Andrew Vallance be designated as the Council's Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) with effect from 8 April 2024.

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### Introduction

1. This report is seeking approval to designate Andrew Vallance as the Council's Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer (CFO)), following his appointment as the Council's Deputy Chief Executive.
2. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the Senior Officer Appointments Panel has appointed Andrew Vallance as the Council's Deputy Chief Executive, but as this role is also designated as the Council's Section 151 Officer, formal approval by Council of the designation is required.

### Background

3. The Section 151 Officer (CFO) is one of the three statutory posts which authorities are required to have (the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer being the other two).
4. Following the senior officer restructure and the recruitment exercise to appoint a new Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) which combines the post of Section 151 Officer, this report confirms the appointment to the post and seeks formal designation of Andrew Vallance as the Council's CFO (Section 151 Officer).
5. Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and appoint a CFO to take responsibility for those arrangements.

### Recruitment

6. The post of Deputy Chief Executive / Section 151 Officer was advertised on Wednesday 4 October 2023 and 11 applications were received. From this a shortlist of four was compiled.
7. The Senior Officer Appointments Panel comprised Councillors Oliver, Bayliss, Field, Gray and Grohne which met on Thursday 23 November 2023 to interview the four shortlisted candidates.
8. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, an offer of employment as a Chief Officer shall only be made where no well-founded objection from any Member of the Cabinet is received; it is confirmed that no such objections from a Member of the Cabinet were received.

9. The Senior Officer Appointments Panel's offer is therefore confirmed, and Andrew Vallance has been appointed to the post of Deputy Chief Executive and will take up the position on 8 April 2024.

### **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications for the proposals within this report.

### **Legal Implications**

11. Unlike the Chief Executive, there is no statutory requirement for full Council to approve the appointment to this post, however, the Council's Constitution requires the designation of the Section 151 Officer to be approved. This provides openness and transparency as to who is fulfilling this statutory post.

### **Conclusion**

12. Council is asked to approve the designation of Andrew Vallance as this Council's Section 151 Officer, with effect from 8 April 2024.

Lorna Ford  
Chief Executive