

CYNGOR GWYNEDD



Report to a Meeting of Gwynedd Council

Date of Meeting:	2 nd December 2021
Item Title:	Appointing New Section 151 Officer
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Nia Jeffreys
Contact Officer:	Geraint Owen, Head of Corporate Support

DECISION SOUGHT

That the Council confirms Dewi Aeron Morgan, as prospective holder of the post of the Council's Head of Finance, as the new Section 151 Officer for the Authority from 1st January 2022 in accordance with the requirements of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

BACKGROUND

1. Dafydd Edwards, the Council's current Head of Finance will retire flexibly on the 31st December, 2021. As Head of Finance, he has taken on the statutory function of Section 151 Officer within the Council and therefore, in view of his retirement, the full Council is required to appoint a new Section 151 Officer to undertake that function from 1st January, 2022.
2. Over recent weeks, the Chief Officers Appointment Committee has taken on the task of appointing a new Head of Finance. That process ended on the 26th November 2021, at which time Dewi Aeron Morgan accepted the offer to undertake the responsibilities and duties of the Council's Head of Finance from the 1st January 2022.
3. The statutory role of a Section 151 Officer is set out in part 11.4 of the Council's constitution in accordance with the guidance of the Local Government Act 1972. The Officer will;
 - Ensure the legitimacy and financial prudence of decisions made
 - Administer financial affairs
 - Contribute to the corporate management of the Council, particularly through the provision of professional financial advice.
 - Provide advice to all Councillors on matters relating to the scope of powers and the authority to make decisions about maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and Budget and Policy Framework, and will support and advise Councillors and Officers in their respective roles.
 - Provide financial information to the media, members of the public and the community.
 - In conjunction with the Monitoring Officer, advise whether decisions of the Cabinet are in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework.

It can be confirmed that Dewi Aeron Morgan is competent to be appointed to the Role in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

Views of statutory officers

Monitoring Officer:

In terms of formality, confirming the appointment of the Section 151 Function is a matter for the Council. No further proprietary comments.

Head of Finance:

I support the decision sought for full Council to confirm the holder of the post of Head of Finance as the Council's new Section 151 Officer.