



### **3.0 Background and Proposals**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 17 May, the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority approved the recommendation from the Westmorland and Furness Joint Committee that the designation of the statutory responsibilities of the Interim Chief Finance (s151) Officer for the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority to the Finance Lead and s151 Officer at South Lakeland District Council.
- 3.2 Following a request from the current Interim Chief Finance (s151) Officer to stand down, expressions of interest were sought from current s151 Officers within the Westmorland and Furness Area, in line with the requirements of the Structural Changes Order which specifies that the person occupying the role of interim Section 151 Officer role be an officer of the County Council or one of the District Councils in the area of Westmorland and Furness. Interest in the post was expressed by the current interim s151 Officer at Eden Council.
- 3.3 In his role as Chair of the Senior Appointments Committee, the Leader of Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority and the Portfolio Holder for Finance for Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority (and a reserve for the Senior Appointments Committee) undertook an interview with the interim s151 Officer for Eden Council on Thursday 25 August. Other members of the Committee were given to the opportunity to join the Interview Panel. The interview was also supported by the Interim Head of Paid Service and an HR representative.
- 3.4 Following the interview, the Senior Appointments Committee agreed to recommend to the Shadow Authority that Paul Sutton, interim s151 Officer for Eden Council, be designated as the Interim Chief Finance (s151) Officer for Westmorland and Furness Council.

### **4.0 Consultation**

- 4.1 No consultation was required in the production of this report.

### **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 No alternative option is recommended.

### **6.0 Implications**

#### **Financial, Resources and Procurement**

- 6.1 None at this stage.

## **Human Resources**

- 6.2 The role of Interim Statutory s151 Officer has previously been made available to all existing employees with the right skills and experience.

## **Legal**

- 6.3 In order to meet the requirements contained in The Cumbria (Structural Changes) Order 2022, the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority is required to designate on an interim basis an officer to be its Chief Finance (s151) Officer from the date that the current designated Interim Section 151 Officer relinquishes the responsibilities of the role.
- 6.5 The officer designated to perform the duties of interim Chief Finance (s151) Officer does not have to be employed by but they must be an officer of one of the Councils that form the Westmorland and Furness Shadow Authority.
- 6.6 The Senior Appointments Committee has the responsibility in the Shadow Constitution to recommend appointments to the Shadow Authority for statutory roles including the role of Interim Chief Finance (s151) Officer so it is appropriate for the Committee to make a decision on the recommendations contained in this report

## **Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment**

- 6.4 Have you completed a Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment? No
- 6.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: There are no direct health and sustainability issues relating to this report.

## **Equality and Diversity.**

- 6.6 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 6.7 If you have not completed an Impact Analysis, please explain your reasons: There are no direct Equality and Diversity issues relating to this report.

## **Contact Officers**

Caroline Elwood [caroline.elwood@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.elwood@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

Nicola Houwayek - [Nicola@HRODSolutions.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:Nicola@HRODSolutions.onmicrosoft.com)

### **Appendices Attached to this Report**

<b>Appendix No.</b>	<b>Name of Appendix</b>
None	

### **Background Documents Available**

<b>Name of Background document</b>	<b>Where it is available</b>
None	