

**RECORD OF STANDING ORDER 35 (COUNCIL  
PROCEDURE RULES) URGENT DECISION  
BETWEEN MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL BY THE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
LEADER**



**Chief Executive:**

Gary Hall

**Leader:**

Cllr Paul Foster

**Subject:**

Designation of Section 151 Officer

**Decision:**

To designate – on an interim basis - James Thomson as the Council's Section 151 Officer

**Details and Reasoning:**

The council's current Interim Section 151 officer Jane Blundell is about to retire.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 the council approved the creation of seven new senior posts in the proposals for a new and expanded Shared Services function with Chorley Borough Council.

These posts included:

- The Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer
- The Deputy Director of Finance/Deputy Section 151 Officer.

Interviews were subsequently held for these new Shared Services posts in November 2019 and James Thomson was appointed to the role of the Deputy Director of Finance/Deputy Section 151 Officer.

Subsequently the post of the Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer was externally advertised. An Appointments and Employment Panel was arranged and interviews were due to be held. However, because of the Coronavirus virus it has proved necessary to postpone this meeting.

In the circumstances therefore it is now proposed to designate James Thomson (on an interim basis) as the council's Section 151 officer. This of course will be a shared role with Chorley Borough Council – the costs will be divided equally between both councils.

These arrangements will be reviewed in due course. The intention is to renew the external recruitment process at an appropriate time.

**Wider Implications  
(including Financial, Legal,  
Equality and Risk):**

**Legal** – Standing Order 35 sets out the procedure for making an Urgent decision.

Ordinarily this is a decision that should be made by full Council. In accordance with our Constitution for decisions of this type the Chair of Scrutiny needs to confirm that he accepts that the decision is one of genuine urgency. Cllr Howarth has confirmed this below.

In accordance with our Constitution this decision will be reported to the next available Council meeting.

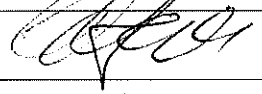
**Finance** – the salary for the Section 151 officer is £75,000. The proposal is that James Thomson will receive an honorarium on his current salary to receive this amount. This salary will be shared equally with Chorley Borough Council.

**Report attached?  
Exempt from publication?  
If exempt, give reason(s):**

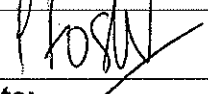
No

No

**Signed:**

  
**Date:** 18/3/20

Chief  
Executive

  
**Date:** 18 MAR 20.

Leader

I confirm that I consider this decision is one of genuine Urgency

Cllr Howarth/Chair of Scrutiny .....

**THIS DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE IMMEDIATELY IN ACCORDANCE  
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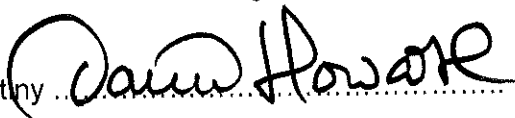
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