



Council

Item

26 February 2026

Public

Appointment of Interim Chief Financial Officer

Responsible Officer:	Tanya Miles		
email:	tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 255811
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Heather Kidd		

1. Synopsis

This report deals with the interim appointment to the statutory role of Chief Financial Officer ("Section 151 Officer").

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Council is required by the Local Government Act 1972 to appoint one of its officers to the role of Chief Financial Officer.
- 2.2. Following consideration by the Chief Officer Employment Panel, it is recommended that Duncan Whitfield be confirmed as the Council's Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) on an interim basis until the role can be appointed to permanently.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Duncan Whitfield be appointed as Interim Chief Financial Officer in accordance with section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The recommendations enable Shropshire Council to comply with the requirements for the appointment of statutorily required officers.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no additional costs associated with this appointment.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. There are no climate change implications from this report.

7. Background

- 7.1. The Council is required to appoint a Chief Financial Officer in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. At its meeting on 21st March 2024 the Council agreed to adopt the Senior Officer Employment Procedure under which a Chief Officer Employment Panel is convened to consider the appointment of certain officers including the Chief Finance Officer. The Chief Officer Employment Panel is made up of three members of the Administration and the Group Leaders of the largest opposition Groups and they unanimously decided to recommend the appointment of Duncan Whitfield as the Chief Financial Officer on an interim basis for 6 months.
- 7.2. Full Council is now requested to confirm that appointment until a permanent appointment can be made. That is likely to be after the appointment of the permanent Chief Executive, recruitment to which commences in early March 2026.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

[Appendix 1 Senior Officer Employment Procedure.pdf](#)

Local Member: N/A

Appendices

None