

North York Moors National Park Authority

24 September 2012

Appointment of s151 Officer and Deputy

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To approve the appointment of s151 Officer for the Authority, and Deputy s151 Officer with effect from 1 October 2012.

2. Background and Proposal

- 2.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the 1972 Act') requires Authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs. In order to discharge this duty the Authority must designate someone to hold the statutory office of Chief Financial Officer ('CFO'). The role is one of the three statutory officers which the Authority is required to appoint by statute.
- 2.2 The Local Government Finance Act 1988 ('the 1988 Act') requires the Officer who undertakes the role of s151 Officer to be a member of one of the recognised Accountancy Bodies. The Corporate Director-Finance & Central Services at North Yorkshire County Council (current post holder John Moore) has undertaken the role of s151 Officer since the Authority became independent in 1997.
- 2.3 The tender submitted by North Yorkshire County Council during the recent procurement exercise proposed that the role is undertaken by Peter Yates (Assistant Director (Corporate Accountancy – CASU) with Debbie Bassett (Finance Manager – Service Support) appointed as Deputy s151 Officer. Officers did not act on this proposal initially, but as John Moore's role at NYCC is changing with effect from 1 October this is an opportune time. This will result in a cost saving and Peter Yates will be in a position to take an active role at future meetings of the Senior Management Team.
- 2.4 Finance Risk, Audit and Standards Committee (FRASC) discussed this on 13 August 2012 and the paper presented the reasons for the change and the experience and professional qualifications of the Officers proposed and agreed to recommend the change to the Authority to take effect from 1 October 2012.
- 2.5 FRASC also considered it appropriate for a letter of appreciation to be sent to John Moore.

3. Financial and Staffing Implications

- 3.1 Budget provision has been made as part of the budgeted costs for financial services.

4. Sustainability and Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no sustainability issues arising from this report. The legal implications are described in the report.

5. Recommendation

Members are requested to approve that:

5.1 with effect from 1 October 2012:

a) **Peter Yates** is formally appointed as the **s151 Officer**

b) **Debbie Basset** is appointed to act as **Deputy s151 Officer**

5.2 the Chair of the Authority formally writes to John Moore to express appreciation for the excellent work undertaken by him and North Yorkshire County Council Finance and Central Services on behalf of the Authority.

Contact Officer
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Background papers to this Report

File ref

CIPFA Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2010)

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13 August 2012