

Councillor Andrew Jefferies  
Leader of the Council

(via email)

7 September 2023

Dear Councillor Jefferies,

I am writing to on behalf of the Commissioner team following our discussions and the agreement of General Services Committee to recommend to Commissioners that they appoint Steven Mair as Section 151 Officer pending the appointment of a new Chief Finance and Section 151 Officer.

As you are aware, the Secretary of State's Directions pursuant to his powers under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999 issued on 16 March 2023, give Commissioners powers to exercise the functions of the Council relating to the appointment and designation of persons as statutory officers.

I can confirm that Commissioners have exercised that power to appoint Steven Mair, in his role as Interim Chief Finance Officer, as the Officer responsible for the proper administration of the Authority's financial affairs, in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. Commissioners can confirm that Mr. Mair is suitably qualified in accordance with Section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

They have done so in accordance with Section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/3384). These Regulations set out the process for such appointments, which must be incorporated into an authority's Standing Orders.

The appointment takes effect from 1 September 2023 and will remain in place until such a time as the role of Chief Finance Officer is filled on a permanent basis.

The Monitoring Officer is making arrangements to provide Full Council with an opportunity to note this decision at the earliest opportunity.

A copy of this letter will be published on [thurrock.gov.uk](http://thurrock.gov.uk) as part of our commitment to transparency in the use of Commissioners' powers.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Dave Smith  
Managing Director Commissioner

Gavin Jones  
ECC

Nicole Wood  
ECC

Dr Dave Smith