



Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer

Report Author

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

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Purpose of Report

The report seeks the Council's approval to appoint an Interim Monitoring Officer.

Recommendations

- Council is asked to approve the appointment of Ms Angela Wakefield as the Interim Monitoring Officer with immediate effect.**
- Council is asked to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, HR and Economic Development to use the Local Priorities Reserve to fund any necessary costs associated with the interim staffing arrangements as well as the recruitment of a Director for Law and Governance.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication? No

What are the relevant corporate priorities? Connecting communities
Sustainable South Kesteven
Enabling economic opportunities
Housing
Effective council

Which wards are impacted? All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There will be financial implications arising from this proposal as at the time of setting the budget, this temporary arrangement was not anticipated. The report requests that a delegation be granted to the Council's s151 Officer in order to make available the necessary funding from the Local Priorities Reserve in order to meet any costs associated with this proposal.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Council is legally obliged to have a designated Monitoring Officer under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Part 1 Section 5).

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

Human Resources

- 1.3 The proposal to appoint an Interim Monitoring Officer will ensure that the Council is able to fulfil its statutory functions. This appointment and following permanent recruitment are in accordance with the Council's Constitution for the recruitment of statutory officers.

Completed by: Jane Jenkinson, Senior HR Officer

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Council has a legal obligation to appoint a Monitoring Officer. It is one of the three statutory officers alongside the Head of Paid Service and the Section 151 Officer.
- 2.2 It is proposed that a Monitoring Officer is appointed on an interim basis, initially for six months, until a permanent appointment is made.

- 2.3 Recruitment for a permanent Monitoring Officer will follow a review of the current management structure, which will be undertaken by the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Employment Committee.
- 2.4 Following consultation with Group Leaders, the Chief Executive recommends Ms Angela Wakefield is appointed to the role of interim Monitoring Officer with immediate effect.
- 2.5 Ms Wakefield is currently employed by Rutland County Council and is the Strategic Director for Law and Governance and the Monitoring Officer. She has worked in local government for many years at district and unitary level. This includes 14 years from 2007 to 2021 with East Staffordshire Borough Council where she was appointed as Monitoring Officer in 2015. She then moved to Slough Borough Council as Monitoring Officer and subsequently to Rutland County Council.

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1 No other options have been considered as the Council has a legal obligation to appoint a Monitoring Officer.

4. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 4.1 The Council has a legal obligation to appoint a Monitoring Officer. The interim appointment of Ms Angela Wakefield satisfies the requirement.