

26 October 2022		ITEM: URGENT ITEM
Council		
Interim Appointment – Director Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Councillor Mark Coxshall, Leader of the Council		
Accountable Director: Ian Wake, Acting Chief Executive		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

In accordance with the relevant legislation and Constitutional requirements this report seeks Council approval to appoint to the Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) role.

1. Recommendation

1.1 To approve in accordance with the Council’s Constitution the appointment of John Jones as Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer).

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Assistant Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer role has been vacant since December 2019 and interim arrangements have been in place.

2.2 Following an unsuccessful attempt to recruit to the role in July 2022 the role was reviewed and independently re-evaluated as Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer).

2.3 The Council is required to appoint a Monitoring Officer under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

2.4 As a result of Government Intervention and the Best Value Inspection work, a report with several recommendations regarding the senior management structure was taken to General Services Committee (GSC) on 29 September 2022. At the meeting GSC agreed to commence recruitment to the Director of Legal and Governance role.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Whilst permanent recruitment to the role was planned, due to the nature of the external recruitment market and current challenges facing the authority it was recommended by three separate executive recruitment agencies that any attempt at permanent recruitment was highly likely to be unsuccessful.
- 3.2 As such a search was undertaken for interim resources and General Services Committee undertook an interview with candidate John Jones on 25 October 2022.
- 3.3 As a result of this interview, General Services Committee recommend to Council to appoint John Jones as Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer).

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 To ensure interim arrangements are in place to enable the Council to fulfil statutory functions and requirements and have appropriate senior leadership to deliver critical services and ambitions.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 General Services Committee have undertaken an interview for this role and recommend the interim appointment to Council.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Jonathan Wilson**
Interim Director of Finance and S151 Officer

This is a substantive post and therefore included within the Council's core budgets.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Mark Bowen**
Interim Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer

The legal requirements and implications in relation to the appointment of the Monitoring Officer are set out in this report.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Mykela Pratt**
Strategic Lead HR and Resourcing

This appointment is recommended based on the Council's recruitment process which is underpinned by the Council's equal opportunity policy.

Report Author:

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