

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 13(e)</b>
<b>1 NOVEMBER 2023</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Matt Gladstone, Head of Paid Service	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Matt Gladstone, Head of Paid Service	Tel. 01773 863607

**APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Matt Gladstone, Head of Paid Service	<b>Deadline date:</b> Full Council 1 November 2023
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approves the appointment of Adesuwa Omoregie as the Interim Monitoring Officer for Peterborough City Council.</li> </ol>	

**1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is for Council to appoint to the statutory Chief Officer role of Monitoring Officer for Peterborough City Council.

**2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

2.1 The role of Monitoring Officer currently falls under the remit of the post of Director of Legal and Governance and the key areas of accountability that the post holds are:

- Acts as the council's Monitoring Officer ensuring that the council fulfils its lawful obligations and statutory duties in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- Responsible for reporting to the council where it appears to them the authority has done, or is about to do, anything which would contravene the law, or which would constitute maladministration.
- Responsible for safeguarding the interests of the Council by providing legal advice and support to the Council, Chief Officers and Elected Members on sensitive and highly complex legal matters through the provision of high quality, timely and appropriate legal advice.
- Responsibility for establishing effective legal frameworks and procedures to regulate decision making with accountability for protecting the interests, desires and good governance of the authority ensuring that there is a strong focus on how the governance operates, and that solid scrutiny and challenge exists.

2.3 The role of Monitoring Officer was filled by Rochelle Tapping until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. Since then, the role has been covered by Adesuwa Omoregie, who previously acted as the Council's Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer. There is an immediate need to appoint Ms Omoregie as the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer whilst permanent recruitment is undertaken to this role.

2.4 Ms Omoregie has worked in local government for 13 years and prior to joining Peterborough City Council has previously held roles as Head of Legal Services and Assistant Director of Legal Services.

### **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

3.1 Both the Sustainable Future City Council Strategy and City Priorities provide the vision for Peterborough. The delivery and achievement of both rely on a high performing leadership team.

### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 This is not applicable, this is an interim statutory post that needs to be appointed to.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Financial Implications**

5.1 This interim arrangement will create an additional pressure in terms of agency costs within the legal services budget. However, this is considered unavoidable given the statutory nature of the role.

This will be partially offset by the vacancy in the substantive post, and will be eased in due course by permanent recruitment to the role.

#### **Legal Implications**

5.2 Under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required to designate one of its officers to be the Monitoring Officer and have a monitoring officer in place at all times. The Monitoring Officer cannot be the Council's Head of Paid Service or its Chief Finance Officer.

#### **Equalities Implications**

5.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

### **6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 Local Government Act 1972  
Local Government and Housing Act 1989  
Peterborough City Council Constitution

### **7. APPENDICES**

7.1 None