

FULL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 13b
20 MARCH 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Matt Gladstone, Head of Paid Service
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr John Howard, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance

APPOINTMENT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Employment Committee	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that Council approve the appointment of Neil McArthur as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from him taking up the role of Director of Legal & Governance	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval from Council for the permanent appointment of the Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer). This role is currently being filled by Adesuwa Omoregie on an interim basis whilst permanent recruitment for this role is undertaken.
- 1.2 The report is presented for Council to consider under its statutory responsibilities for the appointment of the Monitoring Officer.
- 1.4 Given that the role carries the statutory responsibilities of Monitoring Officer, in accordance with the Local Government Act, the appointment requires the approval of the Full Council following a recommendation from Employment Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The role of Monitoring Officer is a statutory appointment under the provisions of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which means that any appointment must be confirmed by Full Council.

2.3 The key areas of accountability that the post will hold are:

- Providing advice to Cabinet, Committees and Full Council and supporting meetings
- Legal Services
- Local Land Charges
- Scrutiny Officer function
- Democratic and Constitutional Services
- Electoral Services
- Information Governance
- Advisor to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Police & Crime Panel

3. INTERVIEW AND APPOINTMENT

3.1 The role was advertised internally and externally between 2 – 21 February which included a bespoke microsite and an advert on the Council's website.

3.2 A selection process was undertaken which resulted in 2 candidates being progressed to the final stage of the process, which was interviews with Employment Committee.

3.3 The Employment Committee resolved to recommend to Full Council the appointment of Neil McArthur as the Council's Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer. Employment Committee are therefore now recommending his appointment to Full Council.

3.4 Neil McArthur qualified as a solicitor in 1997 and has held a variety of legal and Senior leadership roles in local authorities and other public sector organisations.

Over the last three years, Neil has been undertaking interim assignments, supporting in house local authority teams during periods of change. He is currently the Interim Director of Commercial and Procurement at Nottingham City Council, where he has been leading the work to revise the governance arrangements for council owned companies, as well as working on other major commercial projects. Prior to that, Neil was the Interim Head of Legal and Governance, and deputy monitoring officer, at Winchester City Council, and he also worked in interim leadership roles in the legal teams at Sandwell MBC and Birmingham City Council.

Neil spent 12 years as the General Counsel of the Gambling Commission and 3 years as its Chief Executive. He was the Council Solicitor for the General Teaching Council for England, which he joined from the Learning and Skills Council and prior to that he worked as a solicitor for several local authorities. Over the course of his career, Neil has gained expertise across a wide variety of different areas of law, as well as experience of leading teams and major projects and change programmes.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial – The role has been graded using PCC's grading system. The size, scale and complexity of this role, indicates the salary band for this role is set at the right level to fulfil these leadership requirements.

4.2 Human Resources – the review has been conducted in accordance with Council policies, procedures and relevant Employment legislation.

4.3 Legal Comments

The Council is required under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to designate one of their officers as Monitoring Officer. This report is seeking approval for this appointment which is within the ambit of the powers of Council.

5. APPENDICES

5.1 **Appendix A** - Job Description for the role of Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Peterborough City Council Constitution
Local Government and Housing Act 1989