

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 27th September 2016

CONTACT OFFICER: Roger Parkin, Interim Chief Executive
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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER

1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks the appointment of the Council's Monitoring Officer.

2 Recommendation

The Council is requested to resolve:

- (a) That Linda Walker be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 29th September 2016.
- (b) That Article 12 of the Councils Constitution be amended accordingly.

3 Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

The Monitoring Officer, along with the Head of Paid Service and the Section 151 Officer combine to form the Council's Statutory Officer functions. These roles are key to ensuring lawfulness, fairness, probity and general good governance that support the council in achieving its aims. It is important that they work effectively together yet maintain appropriate independence and that the roles are undertaken by adequately skilled and experienced staff supported by appropriate resources.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

None.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The appointment of a Monitoring Officer is a statutory requirement under Section 5, Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 In light of a number of issues that have arisen recently, the Council would be better served by a Monitoring Officer who is a Lawyer. The Council is requested to appoint Linda Walker as the Council's Monitoring Officer from 29th September 2016 until further notice.

- 5.2 The Council's Monitoring Officer has a number of functions which are defined within the Council's constitution. These include; ensuring lawfulness and fairness of decision making, supporting the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, receiving reports, conducting investigations, ensuring access to information, advising whether executive decisions are within the budget and policy framework and maintaining the Constitution.
- 5.3 The Council has the right to designate and appoint the Monitoring Officer.
- 5.4 The Council is requested to appoint Linda Walker as she has a track record working in local government legal services both within local authorities and in the private sector. She was appointed by the Council as Interim Monitoring Officer on 22nd September 2015 until 25th November 2015, and is currently the Councils Deputy Monitoring Officer.
- 5.5 This proposal/appointment will require Article 12 of the Councils Constitution to be amended accordingly.

6 **Background Papers**

None.