

COUNCIL

Interim Monitoring Officer Arrangements

21 February 2011

Report of Interim Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to appoint an interim Monitoring Officer from April 1 2011 for a temporary indefinite period until the new shared senior management team with South Northamptonshire is appointed

This report is public

Recommendations

Council is recommended to agree:

- (1) That Nigel Bell be appointed as the Council's interim Monitoring Officer with effect from 1 April 2011
- (2) That this appointment will continue until the Monitoring Officer role in the new shared senior management team is appointed and in post.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Local Government Act 1972, there is a statutory requirement on the authority to designate three statutory officers; Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer/ Chief Finance Officer.
- 1.2 Liz Howlett, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, is currently the Monitoring Officer. She is leaving Cherwell at the end of March. Given the proposals for a shared senior management team it is uncertain at this point where the Monitoring Officer role will sit in the new structure and what other services the shared Monitoring Officer may manage. It is therefore suggested that interim arrangements be agreed to ensure the Council has a Monitoring Officer as required by the law pending

the review and restructure of the senior management team.

- 1.3 Discussions have taken place with South Northamptonshire Council to explore a shared role and have concluded for a number of reasons that the most appropriate shared arrangement would be for a joint Head of Service function but not the Monitoring Officer function. The details of the nature and practicalities of a shared Head of Service function from 1 April are nearing finalisation and will be considered by the Joint Personnel Committee in due course.

Proposals

- 1.4 That Nigel Bell be appointed as Monitoring Officer from April 1 2011 for an indefinite period until the Monitoring Officer role in the new shared senior management team is appointed

Conclusion

- 1.5 The Council should put in place arrangements for a temporary Monitoring Officer from April 1st 2011 until such time as the Monitoring Officer role in the new shared senior management team is appointed.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 The designation of a Monitoring Officer is a statutory requirement.

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

Option One	Share South Northamptonshire's Monitoring Officer
Option Two	Appoint the Monitoring Officer from within Cherwell with deputies as appropriate as recommended in the report.

Implications

Financial: There will be a saving with the departure of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. This will be offset in part by the need to pay an honorarium to the member of staff acting as Monitoring Officer.

Comments checked by Karen Curtin, head of Finance, 01295 221551

Legal: The Council is required to have a designated

Monitoring Officer under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The proposed arrangements ensure the Council is complying with legislation.

Comments checked by Liz Howlett, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Council Monitoring Officer, 01295 221686.

Risk Management: The designation of a Monitoring Officer is a statutory requirement.

Comments checked by Eric Meadows, Service Accountant, 01295 221552.

Wards Affected

All

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Background Papers	
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