

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 JULY 2021

APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report proposes the appointment of Sue Bearman as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Under Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, the Council has a duty to appoint a Monitoring Officer.

2.2 The appointment is a matter reserved for Full Council and the Monitoring Officer has a number of statutory duties and responsibilities relating to the Council's constitution and the arrangements for effective governance. These duties include:-

- To report on matters she/he believes are, or are likely to be, illegal or amount to maladministration.
- To be responsible for matters relating to the conduct of Councillors and Officers.
- To be responsible for the operation of the Council's Constitution.

2.3 As members will be aware Karen White, the Council's current Monitoring Officer, leaves the Council on 31 July 2021, after serving Newark & Sherwood for almost 22 years.

2.4 Neither the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) nor the Chief Finance Officer can hold the position of Monitoring Officer. Although many Councils appoint their most senior Legal Officer as their Monitoring Officer, this is not a specific requirement. However, whoever is appointed must ensure that the Council receives correct and appropriate advice on the lawfulness of its decision making.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 Sue Bearman has recently been appointed to a new role of Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic Services. In this role, Sue is the Council's most senior legal officer and it is proposed that she is appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer. Sue is a qualified solicitor and considered to have the appropriate skills, experience and ability to undertake the role of Monitoring Officer.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Costs associated with the appointment of a Monitoring Officer will be met from existing salary budgets.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Sue Bearman be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 1 August 2021.

Background Papers

None

For further information please contact John Robinson on 01636 655200

John Robinson
Chief Executive