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| 1 March 2023 | | ITEM: 12 |
| Council | | |
| Interim Appointment – Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) | | |
| Wards and communities affected: All | Key Decision: Key | |
| Report of: Councillor Mark Coxshall, Leader of the Council | | |
| Accountable Assistant Director: n/a | | |
| Accountable Director: Ian Wake, Acting Chief Executive | | |
| This report is Public | | |

Executive Summary

In accordance with the relevant legislation and Constitutional requirements this report seeks Council approval to appoint to the Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) role.

1. Recommendation

1.1 To approve in accordance with the Council’s Constitution the appointment of Asmat Hussain as Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer).

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer role has been filled since November 2022 by John Jones who is set to leave the Council in March.
- 2.2 The position had been agreed by General Services Committee as part of the senior manager interim arrangements put in place to respond to Government Intervention and the Best Value Inspection.
- 2.3 The Council is required to appoint a Monitoring Officer under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 In order to replace John Jones a further search for interim resources was undertaken. Two suitable candidates were identified, and General Services Committee undertook interviews on 7 February 2023.
- 3.2 Selection interviews, conducted by General Services Committee, took place on 7 February.
- 3.3 As a result of these interviews, General Services Committee unanimously recommend to Council to appoint Asmat Hussain as Interim Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) with effect from 2 March 2023.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 To ensure that interim arrangements continue to be in place to enable the Council to fulfil statutory functions and have appropriate senior leadership to deliver critical services and the Improvement and Recovery Plan ambitions.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 General Services Committee have undertaken interviews for this role and recommend the interim appointment to Council.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Jo Freeman**
Finance Manager, Corporate Finance

The cost of this post is not part of the core budget allocation but forms part of the exceptional financial support request made to central government, for which discussions are ongoing. The post meets the requirements of the Section 114 notice which prohibits all non-essential spend. The estimated cost for the initial six-month period is £129,285.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **John Jones**
Interim Director of Legal and Governance

The legal requirements and implications in relation to the appointment of the Monitoring Officer are set out in this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Tina Dempsey**
Strategic Lead People and Organisational Development

This appointment is recommended based on the Council's recruitment process which is underpinned by the Council's equal opportunity policy.

Report Author:

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Director of HR, OD and Transformation
HR, OD and Transformation