

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 22nd September 2015

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WARD(S): All

PART I FOR DECISION

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

1 Purpose of Report

This report advises the Council of the interim Monitoring Officer arrangements that have been put in place following the restructuring of the Chief Executive's Directorate.

2 Recommendations

The Council is requested to Resolve that the appointment of Linda Walker as interim Monitoring Officer be noted.

3 Community 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 Kevin Gordon, Assistant Director of Professional Services, was appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from 19th May 2011. Following the restructure of the Chief Executive's directorate Kevin Gordon no longer works for the authority.

- 5.2 The Council's Monitoring Officer has a number of functions which are defined within Article 13 of the Council's constitution. These include; ensuring lawfulness and fairness of decision making, supporting the Standards 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 Following the restructuring of the Chief Executive's Directorate an interim Monitoring Officer has been appointed pending a permanent appointment to the role.
- 5.4 Linda Walker has a track record working in local government legal services both within local authorities and latterly in the private sector and will work for one day a week on average.

6 **Background Papers**

None