

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Full Council

Date: 24/01/2024

Subject: Appointment of the Monitoring Officer

Report of: The Leader of the Council – Councillor Stephen Cowan

Report author: David Tatlow, Director of Law and Governance (Interim)

Responsible Director: Sharon Lea, Chief Executive

SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Grant Deg, Principal Legal Adviser to the Council, be confirmed as the Council's Monitoring Officer.
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Wards Affected: None.

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Taking pride in H&F	Ensuring a high standard of governance across the Council.

Financial Impact

No financial implications.

Alex Pygram, Head of Finance, Corporate Services, 9 January 2024

Legal Implications

The Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to have a Monitoring Officer.

David Tatlow, Director of Law and Governance, 9 January 2024

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. David Tatlow was appointed as the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer and Director of Law & Governance from May 2022 following the departure of the previous permanently employed Monitoring Officer. It is now appropriate to appoint a permanent Monitoring Officer and this report seeks to confirm that appointment.
2. To meet its statutory obligations under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as amended by Schedule 5, paragraph 24 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council must appoint one of its officers as Monitoring Officer.
3. David Tatlow has filled this position on an interim basis since May 2022. It is good practice for interim positions not to continue too long and a permanent appointment to be made. A further time period has allowed an internal candidate and principal lawyer to be coached and developed by Mr Tatlow and it is now proposed by the Chief Executive as a suitable and capable candidate.
4. It is now proposed that Grant Deg, Solicitor to the Council and Assistant Director in Corporate Services, be confirmed as the Monitoring Officer. Grant Deg will report to the Chief Executive in his role as the Monitoring Officer and to Nicola Ellis, Strategic Director of Corporate Services as the Assistant Director of Legal Services.
5. The Monitoring Officer has the power to appoint a deputy where they are unavailable or unable to act and Grant Deg proposes to appoint Kayode Adewumi, Assistant Director of Democratic Services as his Deputy. This is a power conferred on the Monitoring Officer and not the Authority. The Monitoring Officer has the specific duty to ensure that the Council, its Officers and its Elected Councillors and Co-opted Members maintain high standards of conduct as approved by the Council within the Member's agreed Code of Conduct.

Reasons for Decision

6. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to have a Monitoring Officer.

Equality Implications

7. There are no equality implications for this report.

Risk Management Implications

8. There are no risk management implications for this report.

LIST OF APPENDICES

None.