

 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	ANNUAL COUNCIL - 26 MAY 2021
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 11
Subject	APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member(s)	Cllr Joe Harris - Leader of the Council Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer(s)	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Officer Tel: 01285 623607 Email: robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	This report invites the Council to appoint an interim Monitoring Officer in accordance with statutory requirements.
Annexes	None
Recommendation/s	<i>That in accordance with Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is asked to confirm that appointment of Angela Claridge, as the Council's interim Monitoring Officer until such time a permanent appointment has been made.</i>
Corporate priorities	All
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, places a duty on all local authorities to employ officers in certain key roles. For District Councils they are the Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer) and the Monitoring Officer.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. Patrick Arran, the Council's outgoing Monitoring Officer is now departing from Cotswold District Council and Full Council is asked to approve a replacement so the Council is not without a Monitoring Officer.
- 2.2. The Chief Executive is currently considering the Council's senior management structure, in light of the needs of delivering the 2019 Corporate Plan. In the intervening time, it is recommended that Angela Claridge is appointed as the Council's interim Monitoring Officer on a part-time basis.
- 2.3. Angela Claridge has extensive experience at a senior level, most recently as the Service Director for Legal & HR, and Monitoring Officer for a unitary authority, and was selected in conjunction with our recruitment partners Penna, through a competitive two-stage interview process.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The cost of the interim Monitoring Officer post is higher than the 2021/22 employee budget for the Monitoring Officer. The additional cost will be funded through the application of a contingency budget for employee costs (£22,439) which is available within the 2021/22 budget. This will enable the Chief Executive to complete his review of the Council's senior management structure. The financial impact of the proposed senior management structure will be reported later in the financial year.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Under Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (as amended) the Council has a duty to appoint a Monitoring Officer. Neither the Head of Paid Service nor the Chief Finance Officer can hold the position of Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer has a number of statutory duties and responsibilities relating to the arrangements for effective governance ensuring that no decision or omission of the Council is likely to give rise to illegality or maladministration, and promoting high standards of conduct.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. The key risk associated with the recommendation is non-compliance with the relevant legislation in regards to the Council's duty to have appointed to key roles. However, this can be mitigated through the appointment of an interim Monitoring Officer.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7. ECOLOGICAL AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. Not applicable.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

8.1. As referenced above, the council has an obligation to appoint a Monitoring Officer.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. None.

(END)