

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	The Council
DATE:	8 July 2020
SUBJECT:	Interim Monitoring Officer
REPORT FROM:	The Leader of the Council
CONTACT OFFICER:	Lynne Ridsdale – Deputy Chief Executive
TYPE OF DECISION:	Non key decision
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	The purpose of this report is to request that the Council approves the appointment of an Interim Monitoring Officer.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	It is recommended that Janet Witkowski be designated as the Council’s Interim Monitoring Officer with immediate effect until a new Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services is appointed.
IMPLICATIONS:	No implications.
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	
Equality/Diversity implications:	None.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes
Wards Affected:	All Wards.

Scrutiny Interest:	No.
---------------------------	-----

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council is legally required to designate certain statutory officer posts, including is the role of Monitoring Officer under the provisions of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act1989.
- 1.2 The primary role of the Monitoring Officer is to ensure lawfulness and fairness of decision making. The Monitoring Officer contributes to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through the provision of support to the Standards Committee. The officer is also responsible for the maintenance of the Constitution and Register of Members' Interests. The Officer also provides advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, and budget and policy framework issues to all Councillors.
- 1.3 In view of the forthcoming departure from the Council of the current Monitoring Officer (and Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services), Jayne Hammond, it is necessary to appoint a suitable replacement on a temporary basis, pending a permanent appointment to this position.
- 1.4 It is proposed to appoint Janet Witkowski as Monitoring Officer on an interim basis. Janet has been acting as Deputy Monitoring Officer for many years and has considerable relevant experience as Head of Legal Services.
- 1.5 An interim Strategic Advisor (Marie Rosenthal) has also recently been engaged to work on legal and governance matters including reviewing the Bury Constitution and can assist with monitoring officer duties during this period. Janet will be paid a small honorarium for taking on this additional responsibility

List of Background Papers:-

None identified

Contact Details:-

Lynne Ridsdale
Deputy Chief Executive
Email: L.Ridsdale@bury.gov.uk