

Report to Council
24 November 2020
Report of Chief Executive
Subject Appointment of deputy monitoring officers

Item

7

Purpose

To consider changes to the appointments of deputy monitoring officer.

Recommendation

To:-

- 1) note the removal of Anton Bull and Bob Cronk as deputy monitoring officers;
and
- 2) appoint Graham Nelson as a deputy monitoring officer.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority of a healthy organisation

Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications from this report.

Ward/s: All Wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick - Resources

Contact officers

Stephen Evans, chief executive

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Background documents

None

Report

1. On 22 March 2016 council resolved to appoint Rachel Crosbie as the monitoring officer.
2. Article 12 of the constitution states that the monitoring officer will be a senior solicitor from nplaw and also states that the post of monitoring officer cannot be held by the chief finance officer or the head of paid service.
3. Appendix 9B of the constitution states that the responsibilities of the monitoring officer and deputy monitoring officer roles rest with Rachel Crosbie and the other nominated officers at nplaw.

Requirement for a deputy monitoring officer outside of nplaw

4. nplaw is a shared legal service hosted by Norfolk County Council. Occasionally nplaw may identify conflicts of interest. Where a conflict of interest is identified the monitoring officer and her nominated deputies at nplaw may not be able to act on behalf of Norwich City Council which would leave the council without monitoring officer oversight.
5. There is therefore a need to identify and appoint deputy monitoring officers outside of nplaw who can act in the event of such a conflict of interest. This will provide resilience for the council on the rare occasion that this becomes necessary.

Identifying and appointing deputy monitoring officers

6. The deputy monitoring officer(s) should be employees of Norwich City Council to minimise the risk of any further potential conflicts of interest.
7. On 27 November 2018, council resolved to appoint Anton Bull, Bob Cronk and Nikki Rotsos as deputy monitoring officers to act in the event that nplaw identify a conflict of interest.
8. As Anton Bull is no longer an employee of Norwich City Council and Bob Cronk will be leaving the council at the end of November, they need to be removed as deputy monitoring officers.
9. To provide additional resilience, it is proposed that Graham Nelson be appointed as deputy monitoring officer, alongside the existing appointment of Nikki Rotsos.

Support for the deputy monitoring officers

10. As the proposed officer and the existing deputy monitoring officer are not qualified solicitors, the council will make available to the deputy monitoring officers access to a qualified solicitor outside of nplaw to be able to provide guidance and support to enable the deputy monitoring officers to fulfil their duties.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

Report author to complete

Committee:	Council
Committee date:	24 November 2020
Director / Head of service	Chief executive
Report subject:	Appointment of a deputy monitoring officer
Date assessed:	11 November 2020

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments

	Impact			
Risk management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointing deputy monitoring officers within the council will reduce the risk of no monitoring officer cover in the event of a conflict of interest at nplaw.

Recommendations from impact assessment	
Positive	
Negative	
Neutral	
Issues	