

COUNCIL MEETING – 19TH MARCH 2026

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 (4)

UPDATE ON DESIGNATIONS OF HEAD OF PAID SERVICE
AND MONITORING OFFICER

Report of the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee held on 18th March 2026

SUMMARY

At its meeting on [25th September 2025](#) the Council extended the appointment of Ian Harrison as the Council's Interim Managing Director and associated designation as Head of Paid Service until the Annual Council Meeting in May 2026, or until alternative arrangements were agreed by the Council, arising from the conclusion of work on the management restructure if that is sooner.

This report updates on the current position and recommends that the appointment and designation relating to the Interim Managing Director are further extended, and recommends permanent arrangements for the post of Monitoring Officer.

In accordance with the updated Constitution the appointment of the Head of Paid Service is made by the Licensing and Business Committee, subject to confirmation by the Council. The Council is responsible for confirming the designations of the Monitoring Officer and Head of Paid Service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Subject to consideration by the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee at its meeting on 18th March:

- (1) That Ian Harrison, Interim Managing Director, continue to be designated as the Council's Head of Paid Service until the 31st August 2026. The role to include the statutory responsibilities of the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officers.
- (2) That the post of Executive Head of Governance & Law be designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on 25 September 2025, the Council approved a recommendation from the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards Committee for the extension of the appointment of Ian Harrison as the Council's Interim Managing Director and Head of Paid Service until the Annual Council Meeting in May

2026, or until alternative arrangements are agreed by the Council arising from the conclusion of work on the management restructure if that is sooner.

- 1.2 At that time Mr Harrison had fully expected to be in a position to have proposed new management structure arrangements in order to enable sufficient time to provide the basis for Group Leaders to collectively consider the arrangements for the permanent appointment of a Head of Paid Service for the Council before the pre-election period. Given the expected timing of the LGR decision so close to the elections it is now considered appropriate to wait until the council has that certainty before confirming management arrangements to the end of the Council's existence. This requires a further extension of the Interim period for the Managing Director Role.
- 1.3 Further details about the background to the recommendations are set out in the exempt report to the Licensing and Corporate Business Committee attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

- 2.1 No specific legal implications other than the requirement to ensure the Council has a continued designation of the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer which are statutory roles under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Financial Implications

- 2.2 This proposal has no additional costs outside the budget agreed in February and the permanent appointment of a Monitoring Officer should result in ongoing cost reductions for this role when compared to interim rates.

Resource Implications

- 2.3 No additional implications

Equalities Impact Implications

- 2.4 No additional implications

3. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report ensures continued arrangements for the Head of Paid Service and Monitoring Officer.

JACQUI VOSPER
CHAIR OF LICENSING AND CORPORATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE