

**AM 705/25**

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETING - 23 JANUARY 2025**

**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER**

**Report by:** Alison Barnes, Chief Executive Officer

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Statute requires the Authority to designate one of its officers as the Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer may not also be the Authority's Chief Finance Officer or the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.
- 1.2 The key functions of the Monitoring Officer include:-
  - oversight and reporting of the operation of the Authority's Constitutional arrangements and the decision making processes;
  - reporting on unlawfulness and maladministration;
  - investigating allegations of breach of the Code of Conduct; and
  - seeking rulings from the Authority's Independent Person(s).
- 1.3 Rosalind Alderman, the Authority's Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, will be leaving the Authority on 24 January 2025 and, whilst recruitment for a replacement is already underway, the need has arisen to appoint an Interim Monitoring Officer for the short term. Once a more formal appointment is made, the Authority will be asked to confirm that person as Monitoring Officer (ending the Interim term proposed here).
- 1.4 Officers will confirm the proposed candidate at the meeting who is willing and able to take on the role of Interim Monitoring Officer.

**Recommendation:**

**Members formally appoint an Officer as Interim Monitoring Officer of the Authority, with effect from 24 January 2025 and for up to a maximum of six months or until a permanent appointment is made.**

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**Equality Impact Assessment:**  
No impacts have been identified.