

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	20 February 2023
Report of the	-	Chief Executive
Subject	-	Appointment of Interim Chief Executive

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That Lorna Ford, Deputy Chief Executive be appointed on an interim basis to the role of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service until a substantive appointment is made and be also appointed as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for the same interim period.

Introduction

1. As Members will be aware, I have decided to retire from the Council at the end of May 2023, following the local elections and the establishment of the new Council.
2. Given the timing of my departure, it is suggested that any recruitment process into the role is considered by the new Council.
3. In the interim period, the Council must have a Head of Paid Service, along with a nominated Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. These roles currently are designated to me and my recommendation is that the current Deputy Chief Executive, Lorna Ford, is appointed into these roles on an interim basis until such time as the new Council considers how it wishes to progress with selecting a substantive replacement.
4. Chief Executives are unable to be appointed as local authority Monitoring Officers and legal advice will therefore be sought as to whether Lorna Ford can continue to act as the Council's Monitoring Officer, whilst designated as the Interim Chief Executive, if this designation is agreed by Members.
5. The Deputy Monitoring Officer role can only act in times of absence of the substantive Monitoring Officer, and it may therefore be necessary to designate an Interim Monitoring Officer at the Annual Council meeting in May.

Malcolm Johnston
Chief Executive