



Council

Thursday, 2 July 2026

Appointment to the Monitoring Officer Role (Interim)

Report of the Chief Executive

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Borough-wide Leadership, Councillor N Clarke

1. Purpose of report

To update the Council and appoint to the role of the Council's designated Monitoring Officer (Interim).

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Mr Ifty Ali is designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer (Interim) from Thursday, 2 July 2026.

3. Reasons for recommendation

- 3.1. Legislation and the Council's Constitution dictate that the Council's Monitoring Officer is appointed by Full Council. This is also covered in the Legal Implications section of this report.
- 3.2. There is currently a shortage of suitable and qualified Monitoring Officers which has made the search for a permanent replacement for Mrs Sara Pregon, the Council's previous Monitoring Officer, a more difficult and lengthy process.

4. Supporting information

- 4.1. On 23 May 2024, it was resolved by Council to designate Mrs Pregon as the Council's Monitoring Officer. Mrs Pregon served the Council since that time but was recently successful in securing a position at Nottinghamshire County Council and left the Council on 15 June 2026.
- 4.2. Following a competitive and rigorous recruitment process, it was not possible to appoint a replacement. Mrs Caven-Atack was appointed as Monitoring Officer due to her experience, while a further process was undertaken. The recruitment firm retained from the previous process returned to the market and conducted another competitive and thorough exercise; however, we were still unable to make an appointment. It has been necessary in the short term to look to the interim market to identify a suitably qualified and experienced Monitoring Officer. A further interview process was undertaken with a number of interim candidates and Mr Ali is put forward for Full Council approval as Monitoring

Officer.

4.3. Mr Ali is a qualified Solicitor and has had significant experience in local government law since 1997, having held senior legal and Monitoring Officer roles across multiple councils, managing legal teams, overseeing standards regimes, elections and governance and contributing to significant projects including unitary authority transitions and the establishment of partnerships and trading arms, with responsibilities spanning legal advice, constitutional management, member conduct, data protection, and budget oversight.

4.4. Mr Ali has no notice period to serve. This report therefore recommends that Mr Ali is confirmed in post as the Council's Monitoring Officer (Interim) from Thursday, 2 July 2026 (Subject to Full Council ratification).

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

There are no other options recommended.

6. Risks and uncertainties

The Council needs to appoint a Monitoring Officer; it is a statutory requirement, and failure to do so could result in the Council taking decisions without properly considering legal implications.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial implications

7.1.1 The interim appointment is proposed for a six-month period at an estimated cost of approximately £80k. This will be partially offset by a budget saving of around £44k resulting from the vacant Monitoring Officer post, leaving a net cost of £36k. This residual cost will, in the first instance, be met from in-year efficiencies.

7.1.2 If further attempts to recruit to the post on a permanent basis are unsuccessful, there is a risk that the ongoing cost of the interim arrangement will place additional pressure on the budget. Should this occur, and if in-year efficiencies are insufficient to absorb the cost, any remaining shortfall will be met from the Organisation Stabilisation Reserve. The overall budget position will be reported through the usual governance channels to Corporate Overview Group and Cabinet.

7.2. Legal implications

There is a statutory requirement under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for the Council to appoint a Monitoring Officer. The role of this officer is to conduct certain functions contained within this part of the Act and other relevant legislation. In essence, the Monitoring Officer oversees legality and governance issues, particularly in the conduct of business, and has a duty to report to the Council if they think any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to unlawfulness or maladministration. Under section 5 of the

1989 Act, it is also the Monitoring Officer's responsibility to nominate any required deputies. The Monitoring Officer will also promote and maintain high standards of probity and will advise Members on compliance with the Council's Code of Conduct. In addition, the Monitoring Officer will ensure decisions, reports and other papers are publicly available and Registers of Interest are maintained.

7.3. Equalities implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 implications

There are no Section 17 implications arising from this report.

7.5. Biodiversity net gain implications

There are no biodiversity net gain implications arising from this report.

7.6. Local Government Reorganisation implications

There are no Local Government Reorganisation implications arising from this report.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	Strong governance supports the stable delivery of the Council's wider objectives.
Quality of Life	Supports good governance and lawful decision-making, which underpins public confidence in the Council.
Efficient Services	Ensures the Council continues to operate effectively, lawfully and in accordance with its Constitution and statutory requirements.
Sustainable Growth	Strong governance supports the stable delivery of the Council's wider objectives.

9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Mr Ifty Ali is designated as the Council's Monitoring Officer (Interim) from Thursday, 2 July 2026.

For more information contact:	Adam Hill Chief Executive 0115 914 8577 ahill@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	N/A
List of appendices:	N/A