

Appointments Committee

Tuesday 16 June 2026

11.30 am

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor James McAsh (Chair)
Councillor Victor Chamberlain (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Reginald Popoola
Councillor Eloise Waldon-Day
Councillor Bill Williams

Reserves

Councillor Alexandra Austin
Councillor John Batteson
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Jen Thornton
Councillor Vanessa Threadgold
Councillor David Watson

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

This report has been published on an urgent basis. This is necessary to fulfil the council's legal obligations and to ensure the monitoring officer can exercise the functions in the council's constitution.

Babysitting/Carers allowances

If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

Access

The council is committed to making its meetings accessible. Further details on building access, translation, provision of signers etc for this meeting are on the council's web site: www.southwark.gov.uk or please contact the person below.

Contact

Maria Lugangira at email: maria.lugangira@southwark.gov.uk

Webpage: [Appointments Committee - Southwark Council](#)

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Althea Loderick

Chief Executive

Date: 15 June 2026



Appointments Committee

Tuesday 16 June 2026
11.30 am
Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS	
	A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members for the meeting.	
3.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.	
4.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any personal interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
5.	DESIGNATION OF A MONITORING OFFICER	1 - 4
6.	ANY OTHER OPEN BUSINESS	

Date: 15 June 2026

Meeting name:	Appointments Committee
Date:	16 June 2026
Report title:	Designation of a Monitoring Officer
Ward(s) or groups affected:	Not applicable
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Appointments Committee:

1. Designates John Scarborough, Interim Director of Law and Governance, as the council's monitoring officer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the council must designate an officer as its "monitoring officer". This is a statutory role with responsibility for:
 - intervening if unlawful action or maladministration is occurring or likely to occur
 - maintaining key aspects of the standards regime for councillors, including arrangements for complaints about councillors' conduct
3. In addition, under the council's constitution, the monitoring officer is responsible for:
 - making decisions about legal proceedings
 - providing advice on the council's powers and authority to make decisions
 - acting as the "proper officer" for requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. For some years, the Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance has been designated as the council's monitoring officer. However, following the postholder's retirement, it has been decided this role will not be retained.

5. John Scarborough, an experienced monitoring officer, has been appointed on a temporary basis as the council's Director of Law and Governance. His selection followed a competitive recruitment process led by the council's Chief Executive, Strategic Director of Resources, and Director of People and Organisational Development.
6. Under the council's constitution, the appointment of an interim director is an officer decision. However, only councillors may designate an officer as the monitoring officer. The constitution delegates this responsibility to the Appointments Committee.
7. John Scarborough has been a monitoring officer for many years, most recently at the London Boroughs of Greenwich and Merton. His role at the council includes responsibility for legal services and local democracy. It is recommended that the Appointments Committee designate John Scarborough, Interim Director of Law and Governance, as the council's monitoring officer.
8. Permanent recruitment to the Director of Law and Governance is underway. On Thursday 16 July 2026, the Appointments Committee will meet to interview shortlisted candidates and decide who to appoint. The committee will be asked to designate their chosen candidate as the council's monitoring officer with effect from the candidate's first day of service.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

9. The monitoring officer plays an important role in promoting public confidence in the council by:
 - ensuring its decisions are lawful
 - maintaining key aspects of the standards regime for councillors

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

10. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council has a duty when exercising its functions to have due regard to:
 - the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other unlawful conduct prohibited by the Act
 - the need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share and people who do not share a relevant protected characteristic
 - the need to foster good relations between people who share and people who do not share a relevant protected characteristic
11. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity status, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

12. The monitoring officer will be responsible for promoting compliance with the duties in the Act.

Health impact statement

13. There are no significant health implications arising from the proposals in this report.

Climate change implications

14. There are no significant climate change implications arising from the proposals in this report.

Financial implications

15. There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals in this report.

Legal implications

16. Legal implications are addressed throughout the body of the report.

Consultation

17. Not applicable.

Other implications or issues

18. Not applicable.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

19. This report has been published on an urgent basis. This is necessary to fulfil the council's legal obligations and to ensure the monitoring officer can exercise the functions in the council's constitution.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

20. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Document	Held by and Contact
None	N/A

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	N/A

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ben Plant, Director of People and Organisational Development	
Report Author	Ben Plant, Director of People and Organisational Development	
Version	Final	
Dated	15 June 2026	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	N/A
Strategic Director of Resources	Yes	Yes
Executive Member	No	N/A
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	15 June 2026	

This page is intentionally blank.

COMMITTEE: APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (OPEN AGENDA)

NOTE: Original held in Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Maia Lugangira, Constitutional Team on maria.lugangira@southwark.gov.uk

COPIES

**E-copies
By email**

COUNCILLORS

- Councillor James McAsh (Chair)
- Councillor Victor Chamberlain
- Councillor Evelyn Akoto
- Councillor Sarah King
- Councillor Reginald Popoola
- Councillor Eloise Walden-Day
- Councillor Bill Williams

RESERVES

- Councillor Alexandra Austin
- Councillor John Batteson
- Councillor Stephanie Cryan
- Councillor Sam Foster
- Councillor Jen Thornton
- Councillor Vanessa Threadgold
- Councillor David Watson

OFFICERS

- Althea Loderick, Chief Executive
- Clive Palfreyman, Strategic Director Resources
- Ben Plant, Director of People and Organisational Development
- Vishal Seegoolam, Assistant Director for Local Democracy, Elections & Registration
- Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services
- Maia Lugangira, Principal Constitutional Officer

List Updated: June 2026