

Appointments Committee

Thursday 18 June 2026

5.00 pm

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.

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. For details on building access, translation, provision of signers or any other requirements for this meeting, please contact the person below.

Contact

Virginia Wynn-Jones on 020 7525 7055 or email: virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk;
constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Althea Loderick

Chief Executive

Date: 17 June 2026



Appointments Committee

Thursday 18 June 2026
5.00 pm
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.	MINUTES	1 - 2
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the appointments committee meeting held on 16 June 2026.	
6.	DESIGNATION OF A MONITORING OFFICER	3 - 6
	ANY OTHER OPEN BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT	

Item No.

Title

Page No.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 – 7 of the Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

Date: 17 June 2026



APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Appointments Committee held on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 11.30am Ground Floor Meeting Room G02AB - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT Councillor Sarah King (in the Chair)
 Councillor Evelyn Akoto
 Councillor Sam Foster (substituting for Cllr James McAsh)
 Councillor Reginald Popoola
 Councillor Eloise Waldon-Day
 Councillor Bill Williams

OFFICER SUPPORT: Clive Palfreyman, Strategic Director of Resource
 Ben Plant, Director of People and Organisational Development
 Maria Lugangira, Principal Constitutional Officer

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor Sarah King was elected to preside as Chair for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James McAsh and Councillor Victor Chamberlain.

3. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those members listed as present were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting.

4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

6. DESIGNATION OF A MONITORING OFFICER

The Committee considered the report and the supporting advice provided by officers. Following discussion and a vote on the recommendation, it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the formal confirmation of the designation of the Interim Director of Law and Governance as the Council's Monitoring Officer be deferred, in order to enable the Committee to receive additional background information on the process in support of the recommendation.
2. That it be noted a further meeting of the Appointments Committee will be convened once the requested information has been provided, to enable the Committee to proceed with the confirmation decision.

7. ANY OTHER OPEN BUSINESS

There was none

CHAIR:

DATED:

Meeting name:	Appointments Committee
Date:	18 June 2026
Report title:	Designation of a Monitoring Officer
Ward(s) or groups affected:	N/A
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. On Tuesday 16 June 2026, the Appointments Committee met to consider a recommendation to designate John Scarborough, Interim Director of Law and Governance, as the council's monitoring officer.

5. The committee resolved to defer the decision in order to enable the committee to receive additional background information on the process in support of the recommendation.
6. The following information is provided:
 - The chief executive is the council's head of paid service with legal responsibility for the organisation, management and staffing of the authority.
 - Under the council's constitution, the Executive is responsible for approving the creation of senior management posts; however, the Chief Executive is responsible for their deletion.
 - In February 2026, the chief executive decided the role of Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance would not be retained following the retirement of the postholder. The benefits of this decision include a reduction to the cost of senior management and a simplified leadership structure for the council's legal services.
 - Given committee members' interest in the Chief Executive's decision, the Chief Executive will be in attendance at the Appointments Committee to answer any questions regarding this matter.
7. It continues to be recommended that the committee designate John Scarborough, Interim Director of Law and Governance, as the council's monitoring officer. The reasons for this recommendation are outlined in the following paragraphs.
8. John Scarborough, an experienced monitoring officer, has been appointed on a temporary basis as the council's Interim 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Permanent recruitment to the Director of Law and Governance is underway. In 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

12. 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

13. 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
14. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity status, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
15. The monitoring officer will be responsible for promoting compliance with the duties in the Act.

Health impact statement

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

Climate change implications

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

Financial implications

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

Legal implications

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

Consultation

20. Not applicable.

Other implications or issues

21. Not applicable.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

22. 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

23. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Document	Held by and Contact
Designation of a Monitoring Officer: Report to Appointments Committee on 16 June 2026	Available online

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	17 June 2026	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Head of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Resources	Yes	Yes
Executive Member	No	N/A
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	17 June 2026	

COMMITTEE: APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (OPEN AGENDA)

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

COPIES

By email

COUNCILLORS

Councillor James McAsh (Chair)
 Councillor Victor Chamberlain (Vice-chair)
 Councillor Evelyn Akoto
 Councillor Sarah King
 Councillor Reginald Popoola
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 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
 Maria Lugangira, Principal Constitutional Officer

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List Updated: June 2026