

## **NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

### **AUTHORITY MEETING – 24 JULY 2025**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER**

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

#### **1 Summary**

- 1.1 Following the departure of our previous Monitoring Officer in January 2025, Members resolved (paper AM 705/25) to appoint Paul Walton as our Interim Monitoring Officer for a period of six months or until a permanent appointment was made.
- 1.2 Gareth Hale started at the Authority in June as our Solicitor, he joined us having gained a wide legal knowledge and experience in a number of similar roles both locally and further afield within the public sector. It is now proposed that Members formally appoint him to the role of our Monitoring Officer.
- 1.3 I am sure Members will join Officers in thanking Paul Walton for his service in the Interim role since January.

#### **Recommendation:**

**Members formally appoint Gareth Hale as Monitoring Officer of the New Forest National Park Authority with immediate effect.**

#### **Contact:**

Alison Barnes  
[alison.barnes@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:alison.barnes@newforestnpa.gov.uk)  
01590 646633

Gareth Hale  
[Gareth.hale@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:Gareth.hale@newforestnpa.gov.uk)  
01590 646646

#### **Equality Impact Assessment:**

No impacts have been identified.