

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.

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Equality Impact Assessment:

No impacts have been identified.