

By: Chief Executive
To: Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority – 20 February 2024
Subject: **ADDENDUM** – MONITORING OFFICER PROVISION
Classification: Unrestricted

FOR DECISION

SUMMARY

Subsequent to the publication of the Monitoring Officer report, a meeting was held between Officers and Mid Kent Improvement Partnership (MKIP) on 13th February to explore in more detail the possibility of securing a Monitoring Officer functionality following Bhupinder Gill's decision to stand down from this role with effect from 31st March 2024.

Members will recall from the report that MKIP consists of Maidstone Borough Council, Swale Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. As a group they currently share a Monitoring Officer provision amongst themselves.

Following the meeting with Claudette Valmond, the Head of Legal Services at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, it is pleasing to report to Members that the Partnership is interested in supporting the Authority with a Monitoring Officer function. Whilst this report details that the Monitoring Officer functionality is undertaken by an appropriate officer from MKIP, we are not in a position at this stage to provide a name of who that officer will be.

Given the timescales involved and the gap between now and the next Authority meeting in July, Members approval is firstly sought to continue discussions with MKIP in securing a Monitoring Officer provision and then secondly agreement is given for the Clerk of the Authority and Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to agree the appointment of the appropriate officer from MKIP, the Service Level Agreement and associated fees for this service. This will allow for the necessary negotiations to continue in a timely manner. Any decision taken will be brought back to the next meeting of the Authority in July for ratification and a minute of that decision taken for governance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the above, the recommendation in the original report needs to be replaced, and as such the updated recommendations are detailed below for Members consideration:

1. Approve that the Authority continues its discussions with the Mid Kent Improvement Partnership to secure a Monitoring Officer provision.

2. Approve that the Clerk to the Authority and Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, agrees the appointment of the appropriate officer within the Mid Kent Improvement Partnership, the Service Level Agreement and associated fees before reporting back to the Authority at its meeting in July.

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Clerk to the Authority – Marie Curry

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01622 692121 Ext 8206

EMAIL: marie.curry@kent.fire-uk.org

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None