

## **RACHEL MCKOY – LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL SEAT**

### **SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

I am applying for the Local Government Council Seat vacancy as I possess the essential expertise, leadership, and passion demanded to make it a success.

Throughout my extensive career I have been a proud ambassador for local government lawyers and the wider sector. I am immensely proud of the contribution we make to the profession and our commitment to public service. As an advocate for local government lawyers, and the unique role of Monitoring Officers, I am fortunate to have had the privilege of convening safe spaces, creating platforms to amplify the collective voice of my peers, and raising the profile of the important roles we undertake. I am proud of what we do and committed to supporting my colleagues to develop and flourish through succession planning and building supportive networks.

As an experienced law and governance specialist, within the local government space, I am committed to upholding the rule of law, alongside the ethical framework in decision making. My experience has provided me with a unique national insight into the current challenges and opportunities within the local government, legal and political, context. It has also enabled me to acquire a myriad of skills and lived experience which I utilise to effectively serve my professional family.

I am a firm believer that these qualities have provided me with a rich understanding of our everyday practice - alongside the pressures and challenges presented. This is demonstrated through the work I undertake as an active strategic board member, and trustee, to safeguard the public interest by ensuring effective governance, challenge and scrutiny.

Additionally, I am proud to currently hold several national roles that have enabled me to positively contribute to the sector. These roles include the following: Immediate Past President /Advisor to the Board and National Lead (Planning & Environment) Lawyers in Local Government (LLG); NED and Solicitor to Board of the Society of Local Government Chief Executives (SOLACE); Chair of the Professional Conduct and Disciplinary Committee to the Chartered Institute for IT (BCS); and Lay Trustee (Legal & Governance) Westminster University Student Union.

As part of these roles, I work closely with the following wide range of stakeholders to amplify the voices of lawyers in local government, support the raising of standards, formulation of policy, and to highlight best practice: MHCLG; Local Government Association; SRA; and Local Government Ombudsman. This work has involved effective collaboration with several sector partners and the contribution to multiple strands of assurance work leading to published national guidance (e.g The Changing Role of the

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Monitoring Officer, The LGA Improvement & Assurance Framework For Local Government, and The Code of Practice on Good Governance for Local Authority Statutory Officers).

Considering this experience, I would relish the opportunity to play an active part in supporting the vision of our professional body and welcome the opportunity of bringing my enthusiasm, strategic board, and sector experience to the Law Society Council seat if successful in this process.