

COUNCIL – 27TH FEBRUARY 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS

Purpose of Report

This report requests approval to appoint two Deputy Electoral Registration Officers.

Recommendation

That the Head of Governance & Human Resources and the Elections & Land Charges Manager both be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers with the full powers of the Electoral Registration Officer in his absence, or for the purposes of the administration of Voter Identification Certificates.

Reason

It is necessary for resilience and practical purposes that Deputy Electoral Registration Officers be appointed.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Under Section 8(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, full Council must appoint an Officer to the position of 'Electoral Registration Officer' (ERO) who is responsible for maintaining the Electoral Register for the area.

The Chief Executive was appointed as the ERO at an Extraordinary Council meeting held on 29th July 2019 (minute ref. 34.2).

Under Section 52(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council may appoint Deputy EROs who are able to perform and exercise any of the duties and powers of the ERO.

The changes contained in the Elections Act 2022, and in particular the new Voter Identification requirements which are being introduced, means that there are additional responsibilities for the ERO associated with the issuing of Voter Identification Certificates.

Consequently, it is proposed that two Deputy ERO's are appointed to enable the related tasks to be carried out in a practical and appropriate manner.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

If approved by Council the appointments will come into effect immediately.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified in relation to this decision – the recommendation is designed to mitigate potential risks in terms of resilience and capacity to undertake the ERO's duties and responsibilities.

Background Papers: None

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