

COMMITTEE: ADMINISTRATION & REGULATION

DATE: 19th JUNE 2019

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER AND RETURNING OFFICER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

REPORT BY: DEMOCRACY MANAGER

CONTACT OFFICER: DEBBIE JANES 01582 546038

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES		ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	✓	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING		OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: All

PURPOSE

1. To appoint an Electoral Registration Officer in accordance with Section 8(2)(a) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and a Returning Officer for Local Government Elections in accordance with Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act, 1983.

RECOMMENDATION

2. **Administration & Regulation Committee is recommended to appoint the Chief Executive as the Electoral Registration Officer and the Returning Officer for Local Government Elections, with immediate effect.**

BACKGROUND

3. The Council has a duty to appoint an officer as the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for each of the constituencies situated within the Borough. The Electoral Registration Officer for each parliamentary constituency automatically assumes the role of Acting Returning Officer at a parliamentary election.
4. The Council also has a duty to appoint an officer as the Returning Officer (RO) for Local Government elections.

REPORT

5. The Interim Chief Executive was appointed to both the ERO and RO roles until 31st May 2019 to ensure continuity in delivering elections held on 2nd and 23rd May 2019.
6. However, it is now necessary to appoint the Council's permanent Chief Executive to these roles.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

7. It is proposed that the Council's Chief Executive be appointed to the roles of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Returning Officer (RO) for Local Government Elections with immediate effect.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The Council are required to appoint an ERO and RO for Local Government elections by Section 8 (2) (a) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act, 1983, respectively. Any failure to do so could lead the Council being challenged for failing to meet its statutory duties. This has been agreed by Raj Popat, Principal Solicitor in Legal Services on 29th May 2019.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The costs of the Returning Officer for Local Government elections are embedded within the salary for the post of Chief Executive so there are no direct financial implications arising from this appointment. The costs of Returning Officers fees for other elections are funded by the Cabinet Office. There are no direct financial implications for the Council in this report and this has been agreed by the Finance Business Partner (Place, Customer & Commercial and Chief Executive) on 29th May 2019.

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no HR implications in this report and this has been agreed by the Service Director (Human Resources) & Monitoring Officer on 29th May 2019.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

Representation of the People Act, 1983.