

Report to Council

Subject: Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers

Date: 2 March 2023

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Purpose

To seek approval to appoint two Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (ERO).

Recommendation

That members agree to appoint the Head of Governance and Customer Services and the Democratic Services Manager as Deputy EROs with the full powers of the ERO in their absence.

1 Background

- 1.1 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 a Council meeting held on 29 January 2020.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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. Electoral Commission guidance recommends the appointment of Deputy EROs to carry out these additional functions and be available to act in their absence. The Elections Act 2022 places further obligations on the ERO, which it would be more practical for a deputy to undertake, such as the issuing of temporary Voter Authority Certificates.
- 1.4 Consequently, it is proposed that two Deputy EROs are appointed to enable the related tasks to be carried out in a practical and appropriate manner. If approved by Council the appointments will come into effect immediately.

2 Proposal

It is proposed that Members agree to appoint the Head of Governance and Customer Services and the Democratic Services Manager as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers with the full powers of the Electoral Registration Officer in their absence.

3 Alternative Options

Members could determine not to appoint the Deputy EROs but this would mean a potential risk in terms of resilience and capacity to undertake the EROs duties and responsibilities.

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising out of the appointments.

5 Legal Implications

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

6 Equalities Implications

There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

None.

9 Background Papers

None.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Fran Whyley

Date: 20.02.2023

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer