

Title:	Electoral Registration Officer
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Graham Payne - Leader
Reporting Officer:	Nicola Mathiason Head of Legal Services
Key Decision:	No

Purpose

To appoint an Electoral Registration Officer.

Background

The Council's former Chief Executive, Andrew Pate, was previously the Returning Officer responsible for the running of local and Parliamentary elections, a statutory role that is separate from the Council. He was also the Electoral Registration Officer. Now that he has left the Council it is necessary to appoint a new Electoral Registration Officer.

Key Issues

The Electoral Registration Officer is a statutory role under S8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983. The Registration Officer is responsible for maintaining the register of electors. Local authorities are required to appoint an officer of the Council to this role.

This Council has in the past appointed the Chief Executive and Returning Officer to this role.

At the Council meeting on 20 February the Council appointed Corporate Director, Tim Darsley as the Returning Officer as from 1 April.

In order to regularise the position and ensure that the maintenance of the electoral register is undertaken efficiently it is considered that it is good practice to appoint Tim Darsley to be Electoral Registration Officer. This follows previous practice in this Council when the Returning Officer has also taken on the role of Electoral Registration Officer.

The Council's Constitution states that the Council shall appoint the Head of Paid Service as the Electoral Registration Officer, so an amendment will be necessary to the Constitution to reflect this appointment.

Effects on Strategies and Codes

None.

Risk Management Implications

This appointment will ensure the efficient maintenance of the register of electors.

Financial Implications

There is no additional expenditure for the Council that will result from this appointment.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

The Council needs to have this statutory role in place.

Next Steps

To amend the Constitution to reflect the appointment of one of the Corporate Directors to this role.

Recommendation

The Council is recommended to:

Approve the appointment of Tim Darsley, Corporate Director to the statutory role of Electoral Registration Officer under S8(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and to amend the Constitution accordingly.

