



Full Council

Monday 6 March 2023

Subject: Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (DERO)

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To appoint Deputy Election Registration Officers to facilitate the practicalities of issuing Temporary Voter Authority Cards (VACs) under the Elections Act 2022

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the following Officers be appointed Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (DERO) for the elections to be held on 4 May with immediate effect: -

- Mrs Chapman
- Mrs Rainsforth
- Mrs Lamb

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The Council is required under Section 8 of the Representation of the Peoples Act 1983 to appoint an Electoral Registration Officer.

The Electoral Commission has recommended appointing deputies to facilitate the practicalities of issuing Temporary Voter Authority Cards (VACs) under the Elections Act 2022

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/162/23

No financial implications . No separate remuneration payable to a Electoral Registration Officer or Deputy Electoral Registration Officer

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

NB: Please explain how you have considered the policy's impact on different groups (for example: young people, elderly, ethnic minorities, LGBT community, rural residents, disabled, others).

Data Protection Implications :

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

Health Implications:

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Representation of the Peoples Act 1983 each Council in England are required to appoint an officer to be the Electoral Registration Officer
- 1.2 Council will be aware that the role is currently assigned to Ian Knowles, Chief Executive, with Council making this appointment in March 2021.
- 1.3 It has not been operationally necessarily, previously, to appoint a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (s) (DERO(s)) and the Constitution does not at present provide a mechanism to do so. Whilst this will be addressed in the pending Annual Constitution Review there is a requirement to seek approval now in advance of the May elections.
- 1.4 This report seeks to appoint three Deputy Electoral Registration Officers, to meet the new duties, placed upon the Electoral Registration Officer under the Elections Act 2022.

2. Summary of Statutory Duties and New Duty

- 2.1 Statutory duties of the Electoral Registration Officer are:
 - To maintain a register of Parliamentary electors
 - To maintain a register of local government electors
 - To conduct an annual canvass
 - If ERO found guilty of any act or omission in breach of their official duties they shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine.
- 2.2 The Introduction of the Elections Act 2022 places an additional statutory duty on the Electoral Registration Officer to issue Temporary Voter Authority Certificates, when required.
- 2.3 Temporary Voter Authority Certificates, will require “wet signatures”, as a form of authentication, and from an operational perspective, appointing deputies will facilitate the practicalities of issuing Temporary Voter Authority Cards (VACs), in a timely manner.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the following Officers be appointed Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (DERO) for all Elections being held on 4 May 2023.
 - Mrs Chapman
 - Mrs Rainsforth
 - Mrs Lamb