

**To: Council**

**Date: 15 May 2017**

**Report of: The Chief Executive**

**Title of Report: Appointment of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer**

# Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report**: To appoint a Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer

**Policy Framework:** None

**Recommendations:** That Council resolves to:

**approve** the appointment of the Interim Chief Executive (subject to appointment to this post by the Appointments Committee) as the Council’s Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer with effect from 15 May 2017.

**Background**

1. Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires every district council to appoint an officer of the council to be Electoral Registration Officer.
2. Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires every district council to appoint a Returning Officer for district and parish council elections. The role is to ensure that the elections are administered effectively and that, as a result, the experience of voters and those standing for election is a positive one.
3. The roles of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer are currently held by the Peter Sloman. Due to his resignation it has become necessary to make new appointments.
4. It is proposed that the new Interim Chief Executive is appointed as the Council’s Electoral Registration Officer and the Council’s Returning Officer with effect from 15 May 2017, provided that the appointment of the Interim is agreed by the Appointments Committee before this date.
5. Council on 24 April agreed to delegate authority to the Appointments Committee to appoint an Interim Chief Executive. If the Appointments Committee has not agreed an appointee or the appointee is not working for the Council on 15 May, then Council is asked to appoint the Interim Chief Executive to these roles from their start date with the authority.
6. Unlike a Returning Officer, the Electoral Registration Officer cannot appoint a deputy themselves, unless the power to do so has been delegated to them by the council. The Council appointed Martin John as its Deputy Electoral Registration Officer in February 2004. This appointment remains unchanged.

**Legal issues**

1. There are no legal issues arising from the report.

**Financial Issues**

1. There are no new financial issues arising from the report.

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**Background papers: None**