

ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER – DELEGATION OF POWERS

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PROPOSED DECISION

That the Head of Democratic, Legal & Policy Services and the Democratic Services Manager be appointed Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DEROs) and the Constitution be updated accordingly.

Executive Summary

1. The Council's responsibilities for the registration of electors are discharged by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and in certain circumstances must be carried out by the ERO personally. The Chief Executive is the Council's ERO.
2. The Council can appoint Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DEROs) who can carry out the powers and duties of the ERO on his/her behalf.
3. ERO's main tasks are to maintain and manage the electoral register, absent voters list and register of overseas electors. In their guidance on Individual Electoral Registration (IER), the Electoral Commission (EC) suggested that it was useful to appoint deputies to undertake ERO functions, such as hearings of registration applications, objections and reviews. The EC further advise that the ERO should ensure that deputy arrangements are in place in case they are unable to act personally.
4. To this end, it is recommended that the Head of Democratic, Legal & Policy Services and the Democratic Services Manager be appointed as Deputy EROs, and the Constitution be amended to reflect this accordingly.

Corporate Implications

5. The Council must appoint an ERO in accordance with section 8(2) (a) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA1983) and under section 52(" of the Act the ERO's powers and duties may be performed by a duly appointed deputy. The local Authorities (Function and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 list section 8(2) of the RPA1983 as one of the functions that are not to be the responsibility of an authority's executive. In accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 the council may delegate its function under section 52(2) of RPA1983 to the ERO.

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial, resource or property implications.

Equalities Implications

7. Improvement of the electoral arrangements of electors.

Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications

8. The arrangements for elections and electoral registration underpin all the Council's activities and priorities.

Consultation

9. No consultation has taken place.

Options

10. The Council is obliged to decide formally whether or not to delegate powers.

Conclusions & Next Steps

11. If the delegation of powers are approved, the deputies will be appointed and the Constitution will be updated accordingly

Background Papers

None.