

APPOINTMENTS AS DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS	
FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATE (2021/22) 2 MARCH 2022	CLASSIFICATION: OPEN
WARD(S) AFFECTED N/A	
GROUP DIRECTOR Mark Carroll, Chief Executive	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report recommends the appointments of Deputy Registration Officers .

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the following persons be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers for the Council:
- Bruce Devile
 - Dawn Carter-McDonald
 - Louise Humphreys

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is the person with statutory responsibility for the creation and maintenance of the register of electors to ensure that persons who are entitled to be on the register are included in it . This person takes responsibility for publishing a revised electoral register and issuing monthly alterations notices. The Council's Constitution provides that the proper officer for exercising this function is the Chief Executive.
- 3.2 Although the Electoral Registration Officer is an officer of the Council, the role is one which carries with it personal responsibility, independent and separate from their duties as an employee of the Council.
- 3.3 In preparation for the forthcoming elections in May 2022, and following good practice guidance, the appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DEROs) is recommended for the purposes of contingency planning in the event that the ERO is unavailable or unable to act for any reason.

- 3.4 One of the roles of the DERO is to hold hearings in respect of any reviews of registration or any objections received for an application to be included on the Register of Electors. Reviews and objections can be made at any time during the life of the Register. The objections may be in relation to an existing elector as well as new applications. For objections, the legislation provides that these hearings must be held no earlier than the third day and no later than the seventh day after the notice of objection was received. If a hearing is not held within this timescale then the Council will be in breach of the legislation.
- 3.5 Section 52(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 states that "Any of the duties and powers of a registration officer may be performed and exercised by any deputy for the time being approved by the council which appointed the registration officer, and the provisions of this Act apply to any such deputy so far as respects any duties or powers to be performed or exercised by him as they apply to the registration officer." Therefore, DEROs must be approved by Council and once so appointed they can exercise any of the duties and powers of the ERO.

4. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report

5. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE SERVICES

- 5.1 No further legal implications arise, other than those contained within the main body of the report.

APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

None.

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**Comments for the
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