

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Electoral Arrangements
Committee: City Council
Date: 31 January 2011
Cabinet Member: n/a
CMT Member: Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance
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Ref: TH/Elections
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Executive Summary:

That during the temporary absence of the Chief Executive on health grounds, the Monitoring Officer is delegated the statutory roles relating to electoral registration, elections and referenda.

Corporate Plan 2010 – 2013 as amended by the four new priorities for the City and Council:

No specific implications

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

There are no additional implications arising from this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

None.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the Council appoint the Monitoring Officer as the Council's electoral registration officer and returning officer under the Representation of the People Act 1983 during the absence of the Chief Executive.

The reasons for the recommendation is the need to provide cover for the elections in May 2011 and the specific need for an officer to have personal responsibility as the Counting Officer for the referendum on the UK Parliamentary voting system to be held in 2011.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

No other options were considered because the Council is obliged to have a Counting Officer with personal responsibility for the referendum which cannot be delegated. The appointment of the Counting Officer flows from the Returning Officer appointment.

Background papers:

None.

Sign off:

Fin	MC 101 1.01 7	Leg	106 64/ DV S	HR	MG 11/0 I- 001	Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: n/a											

1.0 Electoral Arrangements

- 1.1 The Chief Executive is likely to be in hospital in the period prior to both the City Council elections in 2011 and the referendum on the UK Parliamentary voting system which is also likely to be held on 5th May 2011.
- 1.2 A referendum held under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 has a different management and accountability structure to any election. In particular, Counting Officers are personally responsible for the conduct of the referendum in their area and for complying with all directions given by the Chief Counting Officer, that personal responsibility cannot be delegated.

- 1.3 The appointment of Counting Officers for the referendum flows from appointment as Returning Officer for local government elections in England.
- 1.4 Given the above, it is recommended that the Monitoring Officer be appointed (for a temporary period) as the Council's electoral registration officer and returning officer to ensure that the Council's statutory duties are carried out.