

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer
Committee: City Council
Date: 26 January 2015
Cabinet Member: Councillor Peter Smith
CMT Member: Tracey Lee (Chief Executive)
Author: Nigel Spilsbury (Electoral Services Manager)
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Ref: E 3/REG
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Purpose of the report:

The City Council has a statutory duty to appoint an officer to act as Electoral Registration Officer. The council does not currently have a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.

However, should the Electoral Registration Officer be absent for a period there may be a need for a deputy to act in her place. This report recommends that a deputy be appointed.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14-2016/17:

This report complies with statutory obligations and requirements and supports our co-operative value of being democratic and our pioneering Plymouth objective.

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

There are no financial implications.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

None directly linked to the report.

Equality and Diversity

In preparing this report and the recommendations, due regard has been given to public sector equality.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

Recommendation

The council appoint the Assistant Director and Head of Legal Services, David Shepperd, as the Deputy Electoral Registration Officer with full powers.

Reason for recommended actions:

To act in the absence of the Elector Registration Officer in all such matters.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None

Published work / information:

The Representation of the People Act 1983: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2

Background papers:

None

Sign off:

Fin	CDR/CorpsF mc1415.29	Leg	DVS 7162	Mon Off	DVS 7162	HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member: David Shepperd (Assistant Director and Head of Legal Services)													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The City Council has a statutory duty under section 8(2)(a) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to appoint an officer to act as Electoral Registration Officer. The Electoral Registration Officer is the Chief Executive – Tracey Lee. This is a statutory appointment require under legislation.

2.0 Deputy Electoral Registration Officer

- 2.1 The Electoral Registration Officer is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the Electoral Register and for the supply of registers and absent voters list to candidates and election agents for Plymouth. The council does not currently have a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.
- 2.2 However, should the Electoral Registration Officer be absent for a period there may be a need for a deputy to act in her place. In accordance with section 52(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 the appointment of a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer requires a decision by the City Council. This report recommends that a deputy be appointed with full powers.
- 2.3 The Assistant Director and Head of Legal Services, David Shepperd, is willing to undertake this role and it is recommended that he be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer. The Assistant Director has considerable experience of the statutory duties touching registration and elections, having been previously appointed to such roles.

Tracey Lee
Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer