

Meeting:	THE COUNCIL
Date:	17, July, 2014
Title	Electoral Registration Officer/Returning Officer
Purpose of the Report	Appoint the Above Officer.
Cabinet Member	Councillor Ioan Thomas, (Customer Care).
Officer:	Dilys Phillips, Monitoring Officer.

1. Under Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 the Council is required to appoint an Electoral Registration Officer for each constituency, or part of the constituency within the County.
2. Under the same Act the Electoral Registration Officer shall be the Acting Returning Officer for parliamentary elections.
3. Under Section 35 of the same Act the Council is required to appoint one of its officers to act as Returning Officer for local elections (County and Community).
4. In addition, the Act states that any appointment of a deputy for the Electoral Registration Officer is to be made by the Council. (Deputies for elections are appointed by the Returning Officer).
5. The role of the Returning Officer (and that of the Electoral Registration Officer) is entirely separate to the role of a Council officer and the responsibility for discharging the duties of electoral registration and running elections is a personal one on the individual post-holder.
6. As the present Electoral Registration Officer/Returning Officer is retiring, the post will become vacant on the 1st September 2014 and the Council is required to appoint a successor from that date
7. Usually (but not always), the Council's Chief Executive is appointed as Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer. It is recommended therefore that this role be given to the Chief Executive.
8. The day to day work of maintaining the electoral register is the responsibility of the new Monitoring Officer as a result of the recent restructuring. It is therefore recommended that the Monitoring Officer be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.

9. It is recommended that the Council resolves as follows:

- (a) To appoint the Chief Executive as Electoral Registration Officer for every constituency and part of a constituency within the County in accordance with Section 8(2A) Representation of the People Act 1983.
- (b) To appoint the Monitoring Officer as Deputy Registration Officer for the purposes mentioned in (a) above in accordance with Section 52(2) of the Act.
- (c) To appoint the Chief Executive as Returning Officer for the election of councillors to the Council and the election of community councillors within the county in accordance with Section 35(1A) Representation of the People Act 1983.

All to be effective from the 1st September, 2014.