



<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Decision Type:</b> Non-Key
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<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b> 22 March 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Appointment of additional Deputy Electoral Registration Officer for the purpose and power to sign temporary Voter Authority Certificates	
<b>Report of</b>	Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills	

**Summary**

At the Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 the Council resolved to appoint Lynne Ridsdale, Bury Council’s Deputy Chief Executive as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer and Bury Council’s Monitoring Officer, Jacqui Dennis and the Joint Chief Information Officer, Kate Waterhouse as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers.

Following the Deputy Chief Executive’s appointment as Chief Executive, she assumed the role of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).

Following this decision, further guidance has been issued by the Electoral Commission in relation to the issuing of temporary voter authority certificates.

The guidance states that the Voter Authority Certificate should include a wet signature and this can be provided by a deputy.

The guidance therefore suggests that Council’s appoint additional deputy ERO’s with the power to sign temporary Voter Authority Certificates.

**Recommendation(s)**

The Council appoints the Elections and Land Charges Manager, as a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer with the power to sign temporary Voter Authority Certificates.

**Alternative options considered and rejected**

Not applicable.

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## **Background**

1. All Councils must appoint a senior officer to be Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) with responsibility for maintaining the Electoral Register throughout the year.
  2. At Bury Council this role is fulfilled by the Chief Executive who is also the Returning Officer.
  3. Sections 52 and 53 of the Representation of the People Act 1982 sets out the statutory functions of the ERO.
  4. The Electoral Commission recommend that Council's approves the appointment of one or more Deputy EROs who can carry out the duties and powers of the ERO if they are unable to act personally.
  5. The ERO does not have the power to appoint a Deputy ERO. This must be a Council decision.
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## **Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:**

<b>Risk / opportunity</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
In the event that the Electoral Registration Officer is unable to fulfil their role, the Council need Deputies in place.	Appoint two deputies to provide cover if required.

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## **Legal Implications:**

6. The legal implications are set out in the body of the report.
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## **Financial Implications:**

7. There are no financial implications.
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## **Appendices:**

*Please list any appended documents.*

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## **Background papers:**

*Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.*

Council Report - Appointment of Electoral Registration Officers January 2023

**Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
ERO	Electoral Registration Officer