

Report to:	Council	Date: 17 January 2024
Subject:	Appointment of Deputy Local Returning Officers at the Combined Authority Mayoral Elections	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR	

Summary

1. The Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 formally requires that each constituent Council shall appoint an Officer of the Council to be the Local Returning Officer for the election of a Combined Authority Mayor
2. A Deputy Local Returning Officer is also required to be appointed in the unlikely situation the appointed Local Returning Officer is unavailable to fulfil their duties.

Recommendation(s)

3. The Council is requested to appoint Jacqui Dennis, Director of Law and Democratic Services and Kate Waterhouse, Executive Director (Strategy & Transformation), as the Deputy Local Returning Officers for Bury Council at the Combined Authority Mayoral elections.

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Background

4. Under Section 35 (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, Councils are required to appoint an Officer to be the Returning Officer for local elections. The Chief Executive is appointed for these purposes.
5. The job descriptions for the Monitoring Officer and Executive Director (Strategy & Transformation) includes the role of Deputy Returning Officer.
6. In the version of the Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 circulated prior to the draft Order being formally laid before Parliament, the Returning Officer at local elections was automatically the Returning Officer at Combined Authority Mayoral elections.
7. In the final legislation which became law on 31 January 2017, Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 has been modified by paragraph 1 (5) of Schedule 2 of the 2017 Order, so as to provide that a separate

Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer appointment should be made for the Combined Authority Mayoral Election.

8. It is therefore requested that a specific appointment of two Deputy Returning Officers for the Council at Combined Authority Mayoral elections is made, in line with the recommendation at the beginning of this report.
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Legal Implications:

9. This is a statutory requirement as set out in the body of the report.
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Financial Implications:

10. There are no financial implications