

Cherwell District Council

Council

10 April 2014

<p>Ratification of Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer</p>
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Report of Electoral Registration Officer

This report is public

Purpose of report

To ratify the appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To ratify the appointment of James Doble as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The appointment of the Returning Officer (RO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is a decision made by Full Council. In the case of the appointment of Deputy Returning Officers, the law is clear that this is a matter for the Returning Officer alone to decide.
- 2.2 In the case of Electoral Registration Officer whilst the appointment of a Deputy is the responsibility of the Electoral Registration Officer, James Doble has held the position of Deputy Returning Officer and Deputy Electoral Registration Officer since 2009, having been appointed by the RO/ERO at that time and specifically appointed by the current RO/ERO following her arrival in 2011. The law is less clear on whether such an appointment requires the ratification of Council in order for a deputy to carry out electoral registration review hearings.
- 2.3 Historically formal electoral registration reviews with hearings have seldom been carried out (there has not been one since at least 2008), however with the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration they are now likely to be required frequently, as the procedure for removing electors from the electoral register has been restricted. As the Electoral Registration Officer or a properly appointed Deputy is required to be present at each hearing it is advisable to ensure that not only the

Electoral Registration Officer has been appointed by Council but that the appointment of the Deputy Electoral Registration Officer has been ratified so that they can officiate at reviews with documentary evidence of their appointment available in case of legal challenge.

3.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is the view of the Electoral Registration Officer that it is in the best interests of the Council and the successful delivery of Individual Electoral Registration to ratify her decision.

4.0 Consultation

None

5.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To ratify the Electoral Registration Officer's appointment

Option 2: Not to ratify the Electoral Registration Officer's appointment

6.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

There is no remuneration for this appointment, therefore there are no financial implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

The ratification by Council of the appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer is a prudent measure to ensure that the electoral registration review process is not subject to legal challenge.

Comments checked by:

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Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Not applicable

Lead Councillor

Not applicable

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	-
Background Papers	
None	
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