

## CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF: Chief Executive  
TO: Civic Affairs Committee  
WARDS: All wards

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### **APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE ELECTION OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY MAYOR**

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#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The first election of a Mayor for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority takes place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017.
- 1.2 The Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 requires that each constituent council of a combined authority area must appoint an officer of the council to be the Returning Officer for the election of a combined authority mayor.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Appoint the Chief Executive (and Head of Paid Service) as the Returning Officer for Cambridge in respect of mayoral elections to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.
- 2.2 Authorise the Returning Officer to appoint, if required, a Deputy or Deputies to undertake those responsibilities in their absence.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 All Councils are required to appoint an officer to be the Returning Officer at local government elections in accordance with section 35 of The Representation of the People Act 1983. For Cambridge City Council, that is the Chief Executive (and Head of Paid Service).

- 3.2 Ordinarily, statutory provisions will provide that the Returning Officer for local government elections will be the Returning Officer for any other polls held in that area.
- 3.3 However, the Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 requires each constituent council to appoint the Returning Officer for the purpose of combined authority mayoral elections.
- 3.4 Returning Officers from each constituent council are responsible for the management of the poll in their area, with reference to the Combined Authority Returning Officer, who is appointed by the combined authority. For the poll due to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, this is the Chief Executive of East Cambridgeshire District Council.

#### 4. **CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The appointment of a Returning Officer for the combined authority mayoral election is required in order to fulfil the statutory functions necessary for the election of a combined authority mayor.
- 4.2 Deputies must be appointed at each poll to undertake duties on their behalf or take on the role of Returning Officer in their absence.

#### 5. **IMPLICATIONS**

##### (a) **Financial Implications**

The cost of the combined authority mayoral election will be funded by the combined authority. For Cambridge, this is estimated at £59,071 for 2017.

##### (b) **Staffing Implications**

None.

##### (c) **Equality and Poverty Implications**

None. An EQIA for elections covers this report.

##### (d) **Environmental Implications**

None.

##### (e) **Procurement**

Not required.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

None required.

(g) **Community Safety**

No implications.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** The following are the background papers that were used in the preparation of this report:

- The Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017

To inspect these documents contact Vicky Breading on extension 7057.

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Report file:

Date originated: 2 February 2017

Date of last revision: 2 February 2017