

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT OF:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORE SERVICES

**TITLE:** Appointment of Deputy Returning Officer and Deputy Electoral Registration Officer

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>12 July 2023</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	<b>Core Services</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Public or Private</b>	<b>Public</b>

### **Purpose of report**

The Council has appointed Sarah Norman as Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer as required by the Representation of the People Act 1983 to be responsible for its electoral registration functions and the conduct of elections. These statutory appointments are also aligned to the appointment of the Chief Executive. However, at present there is no Deputy appointed to these roles for resilience.

### **Council Plan priority**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

That Cabinet:-

1. Endorses the appointment of Wendy Popplewell as:
  - i) Deputy Electoral Registration Officer and
  - ii) Deputy Returning Officerto operate with the full powers of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer if she is unable to discharge them herself. This will apply at all elections, referenda and other polls in the Barnsley MBC area.
2. That the report be submitted for approval at the meeting of Full Council on 27 July 2023.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The council appointed Shokat Lal to the roles of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer and Deputy Returning Officer in 2020. His appointment to these roles lapsed when he left the council in January 2023.
- 1.2 The council has no legal obligation to appoint deputies to these roles, but it is considered good practice to appoint a deputy for resilience purposes. There is no financial remuneration connected to these roles.

## **2. PROPOSAL**

- 2.1 Given the importance of these roles at certain points of the year ensuring that there is sufficient resilience to cope with the loss of key personnel is crucial.
- 2.2 It is important that the Deputy Returning Officer and Deputy Electoral Registration Officer is of sufficient seniority within the council to be able to command the full resources of the council to successfully deliver an election should the need arise.
- 2.3 The Executive Director of Core Services has been appointed to these roles since the post was created and it has proved to be an effective appointment in providing support and resilience to the Returning Officer.
- 2.4 It is therefore recommended that Wendy Popplewell is appointed to these roles in her capacity as Executive Director of Core Services.

## **3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **3.1 Financial and Risk**

There are no financial implications as there is no financial reimbursement for these appointments.

### **3.2 Legal**

None

### **3.3 Equality**

Not applicable – this is an appointment to a statutory position.

### **3.4 Sustainability**

Decision-making wheel not completed – Not applicable – this is an appointment to a statutory position.

### **3.5 Employee**

None

**3.6 Communications**

None

**4. CONSULTATION**

None

**5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 None

**6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 To ensure resilience in the positions of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

**7. GLOSSARY**

None

**8. LIST OF APPENDICES**

None

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**10. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Financial consultation &amp; sign off</b>	Colette Tyrell 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
<b>Legal consultation &amp; sign off</b>	Sukdave Ghuman, 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Report Author: Peter Clark**

**Post: Head of Service, Registration and Elections**

**Date: 19/06/2023**