

Council

21 February 2017

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Resources

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title: Appointment of Local Returning Officer for the West Midlands Combined Authority Mayoral Elections

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval for the appointment of a Local Returning Officer for the election of a combined authority mayor.

Recommendations:

That the City Council appoints the Chief Executive to be the Local Returning Officer for the City of Coventry in respect of the elections for the West Midlands Combined Authority Elected Mayor.

List of Appendices included:

None.

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 21 February 2017

Report title: Appointment of Local Returning Officer for the West Midlands Combined Authority Mayoral Elections

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 On 4th May 2017 elections will be held for the elected Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority. At its board meeting on the 20 January, the West Midlands Combined Authority agreed to appoint the Birmingham Returning Officer as the Combined Authority Returning Officer. He will have responsibility for the co-ordination of the Mayoral election across the seven metropolitan areas in the West Midlands.
- 1.2 The Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 requires each constituent council to appoint an officer of the council to be the returning officer for the election of a combined authority mayor.
- 1.3 As has been the practice for elections in Coventry, this paper recommends the appointment of the Council's Chief Executive as the Coventry Local Returning Officer.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 It is recommended that the City Council appoints the Chief Executive to be the Local Returning Officer for the City of Coventry in respect of the elections for the West Midlands Combined Authority elected Mayor.

Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Not applicable

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The appointment will take effect from the date of the Council Meeting.

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

- 5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications for the City Council arising from this appointment.

Local authorities will be able to recover costs associated with the election, including payment as decided by each returning area to its local returning officer, from the West Midlands Combined Authority.

- 5.2 Legal implications

All Councils are required to appoint an officer to be its Returning Officer in accordance with section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 for the election of councillors within the City. The Returning Officer's general duty at those elections is to do all such acts and things as may be necessary for the effectual conduct of those elections. For Coventry City Council that is normally the Chief Executive.

Ordinarily statutory provisions will provide that the person appointed as the Returning Officer for principal area elections (i.e. city council elections) will also be appointed as the Local Returning Officer for any other polls held in the City (such as the Police and Crime Commissioner).

However Schedule 2 of the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 specifically requires each constituent council to appoint an officer of the council to be the returning officer for the election of a combined authority mayor.

Whilst the Local Returning Officer is appointed by the Council, he is individually legally responsible for the delivery of the election.

The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 will provide the supplementary governing legislation for the conduct of the Mayoral election.

6. Other implications

Not applicable

Report author:

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Chris West	Executive Director	Resources	10/02/17	10/02/17

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