

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 8 March 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Leader's

SUBJECT: Appointment of Local Returning Officer

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 formally requires that each constituent authority appoints an Officer of their Council to be the Local Returning Officer for the election of a Combined Authority Mayor.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Council be recommended to appoint the Chief Executive as the Local Returning Officer for the Combined Authority Mayoral Election to be held on 4 May 2017.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 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.

3.2 Statutory provisions provide that a Council's Returning Officer will also be the Returning Officer for any other polls that are held in the Borough, such as Local, Parish, Parliamentary or European Elections, Referendum and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections.

3.3 The Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 provides that each constituent authority appoint an Officer of the Council to be the Local Returning Officer for that Council's area, for the election of a Combined Authority Mayor. This election is due to take place on Thursday 4 May 2017.

3.4 In Halton it is proposed that the Chief Executive be appointed as the Local Returning Officer for this purpose.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

As this appointment is a legal requirement, the Council would be in breach of its statutory duty if a Local Returning Officer is not appointed.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs for this election have been determined by Central Government and have been estimated on the “maximum recoverable amounts” allocated to the various voting areas of the Police and Crime Commissioner Election and the European Referendum held in 2016.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

6.3 A Healthy Halton

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The risk of not appointing to this position would result in a breach of relevant legislation.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.