



Continuation of Appointment of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer

Executive Portfolio Holder: Val Keitch, Leader of Council
Chief Executive: Jane Portman
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Purpose of the Report

1. To extend the appointment of the position of Returning Officer for South Somerset District Council to 31 March 2023.

Public Interest

2. Section 35(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the council to appoint an officer to be the Returning Officer (RO) in local elections.
3. The Returning Officer (RO) is the person who has the overall responsibility for the conduct of elections in South Somerset. The RO is usually an officer of the council, but the role of the RO is a personal responsibility, independent and separate from their duties as an employee of the council.

Recommendations

4. That the Council:-
 - a) agrees to extend the appointment of Jill Byron (Monitoring Officer) as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for South Somerset District Council until 31 March 2023.

Background

5. Council agreed to appoint Jill Byron as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for South Somerset District Council at its meeting on 08 July 2021 for an initial period of 18 months. The intention is for Jill Byron to continue in this role to ensure consistency is maintained until 31 March 2023 when South Somerset District Council will cease.

Report Detail

6. There are no district-wide elections anticipated, however, in the event of any Town or Parish Council by-elections being called to fill casual vacancies, SSSDC will need a RO to oversee that election process.



South Somerset District Council Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications in extending this appointment.

Legal implications (if any) and details of Statutory Powers

8. Section 35(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the council to appoint an officer to be the Returning Officer (RO) in local elections.

Council Plan Implications

9. The position of Returning Officer supports all of the values of the SSDC Council Plan 2020 - 2024.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

10. No relevant considerations.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. Due regard was given to equality and diversity considerations throughout the appointment process.

Privacy Impact Assessment

- No relevant considerations.

Background Papers

- Report to Council (Appointment of Chief Executive Officer) 08 July 2021
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