

Public

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 – Appointment of Returning Officer

**Meeting/Date:** Council – 22nd February 2017

**Executive Portfolio:** Councillor G J Bull – Deputy Leader

**Report by:** Elections and Democratic Services Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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**Executive Summary:**

The Council is required to appoint a Returning Officer responsible for organising and delivering the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Mayoral elections in Huntingdonshire.

**Recommendation:**

**The Council is recommended to appoint the Managing Director as Returning Officer for the Huntingdonshire area for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Mayoral elections in Huntingdonshire to be held in May 2017.**

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to appoint a Returning Officer to be responsible for administering the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Mayoral elections in Huntingdonshire.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Electoral Commission has advised each constituent council that they must formally appoint an officer of the Council to be a Returning Officer for each local area within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This is a requirement of the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.
- 2.2 The Managing Director has already been appointed as Local Returning Officer for the delivery of local elections and has been appointed as Deputy Returning Officer for the County Council elections also scheduled in May 2017.
- 2.3 The appointed Returning Officer will be responsible for running the Combined Authority Mayoral elections at a local level (at a District Council or Unitary Council area).
- 2.4 The Combined Authority must also appoint one of its officers, or one of the officers of a constituent council, to be the Combined Authority Returning Officer (CARO) for the election. Mr J Hill, Chief Executive of East Cambridgeshire District Council has been appointed as the CARO for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Mayoral elections.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The cost of the Mayoral election will be funded by the Combined Authority. For information, the estimated cost of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority elections for the Huntingdonshire area is £153,366. In addition, there will be combined authority wide costs related to the candidates' address booklets and Combined Authority Returning Officer costs.

## **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 4.1 The Council is required to appoint a Returning Officer to be responsible for the organisation and delivery of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Mayoral elections in Huntingdonshire.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017

The Electoral Commission – Part A Returning Officer Role and Responsibilities

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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