

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 18th February 2014

CONTACT OFFICER: Ruth Bagley, Chief Executive
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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER, ACTING RETURNING OFFICER AND RETURNING OFFICER

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to seek the Council's approval to the appointment of the statutory positions of Electoral Registration Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Returning Officer in place of the current holder, the Chief Executive.

2. Recommendations

The Council is requested to resolve:-

- (a) That Kevin Gordon, Assistant Director (Professional Services), be appointed to the roles of Electoral Registration Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Returning Officer for Parliamentary and Local Elections respectively with effect from 19th February 2014.
- (b) That the Scheme of Delegation be amended to reflect the above changes.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan

This is a technical/administrative report and does not directly link with the Corporate Plan.

4. Other Implications

(a) Financial

These statutory appointments do not have any financial implications for the Council.

(b) Risk Management

The Council is duty bound under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) to appoint to these statutory positions. Failure to do so would

mean that the Council would be in breach of its statutory duties to make such appointments.

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to appoint an Electoral Registration Officer who carries out the role of the Acting Returning Officer for UK Parliamentary Elections. Section 35 of the same Act requires the Council to appoint a Returning Officer for the election of Councillors within the Borough and the Parishes within the Borough.

(d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

It is not considered that any formal equalities impact assessment needs to be carried out in relation to the information and recommendations contained within this report.

5. Background/Supporting Information

- 5.1 At its meeting on 24th March 2010 the Council appointed the Chief Executive to the statutory roles of Electoral Registration Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Returning Officer with effect from noon on Friday 26th March 2010.
- 5.2 Kevin Gordon was appointed to the newly created Assistant Director (Professional Services) post in 2010 and it was envisaged that the postholder would become the Council's Electoral Registration Officer, Acting Returning Officer and Returning Officer. The Chief Executive has requested that the Council now formally appoints Kevin Gordon to these statutory positions with effect from 19th February 2014.
- 5.3 The Scheme of Delegation, which forms part of the Constitution, will need to be amended to reflect these changes, if agreed.

6. Comments of other Committees

None.

7. Conclusion

The Council must appoint to the three statutory positions and is recommended to approve the recommendations set out in paragraph 2 above.

8 Background Papers

None.