

Blaby District Council
Council

Date of Meeting	31 January 2023
Title of Report	Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council
Report Author	Corporate Services Group Manager and Monitoring Officer
Corporate Priority	A Place to Live

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report requests the appointment of two Deputy Electoral Registration Officers.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That the Corporate Services Group Manager and the Senior Electoral Services Officer is appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer, with the full powers of the Electoral Registration Officer in her absence or for the purposes of the administration of Voter Identification Certificates.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 It is necessary for resilience and practicalities that Deputy Electoral Registration Officers are required.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

Under Section 8(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, Full Council must appoint an Officer to the position of 'Electoral Registration Officer'. This position is responsible for maintaining the Electoral Register for the area. The Chief Executive is the appointed Electoral Registration Officer.

Under Section 52(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council may appoint a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer who is able to perform and exercise any of the duties and powers of the Electoral Registration Officer.

The Electoral Registration Officer is responsible for maintaining the Electoral Register. If there were a legal challenge to any act of including, or refusing to include, somebody within the register of electors, it is the Electoral Registration Officer that would convene and conduct the hearing required

Council can appoint a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer who could carry out the duties of the Electoral Registration Officer in her absence.

The changes contained in the Elections Act 2022 and in particular the Voter Identification requirements means that there are additional tasks for the ERO, associated with the issuing of Voter Identification Certificates, as such it is proposed that two Deputy ERO's are appointed to enable the tasks to be carried out in the most practical and appropriate way.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That the Officers identified in paragraph 2.1 be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

- Electoral Registration Officer

4.4 Significant Issues

None

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 There are no additional costs or savings associated with this report, the proposals will however offer the benefits of resilience and ensuring that actions are taken in a timely manner.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Availability of the ERO	Appointment of the two DERO's

7. Other options considered

- 7.1 None

8. Environmental impact

- 8.1 None

9. Other significant issues

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

10.1 None

11. Background paper(s)

11.1 None.

12. Report author's contact details

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