

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 12 APRIL 2006

REPORT BY HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

11. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL
REGISTRATION OFFICER

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that (A) subject to the qualification detailed in (B) below, Simon Drinkwater be appointed as the Council's Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer with effect from 18 May 2006;

(B) the appointment referred to in (A) above cease upon the Council's Chief Executive, Anne Fisher, commencing her duties with the Authority, and

(C) the Director of Corporate Governance be authorised to amend the Constitution to take account of the (interim) appointment detailed in (A) above, if necessary.

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 To consider the recommendation to appoint the Authority's Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer until the Council's new Chief Executive commences her duties.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 The appointment contributes to the Council's corporate priority 7 – improving the health and sustainability of the organisation.

3.0 Background

3.1 Council has previously decided to delete the post of Executive Director (Returning Officer). The existing postholder's employment by the Authority will cease on 18 May 2006. The Authority must

appoint an officer of the Council to be Electoral Registration Officer for any parliamentary constituency or part of a constituency coterminous with or situated in its area (Hertford and Stortford, Stevenage and North East Hertfordshire). Similarly, the Authority is required to appoint an officer of the Council to be the returning officer for elections of district councillors and for elections of parish/town councillors.

4.0 Current situation

4.1 There will be a period of time, commencing on 18 May 2006, when the statutory offices now detailed would be vacant. In order to avoid this situation, Council is invited to appoint Simon Drinkwater to the posts.

4.2 The appointments may require some changes to the Constitution.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 All legal matters are covered in the report.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications.

7.0 Human Resource Implications

7.1 There are no Human Resource implications.

8.0 Risk Management Implications

8.1 This appointments are necessary to secure the effective management of the Council.

9.0 Conclusion

9.1 The Council is requested to adopt the recommendation at the head of this report.

Background Papers

None

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