



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Council

Thursday, 27 February 2025

Report of Councillor Ashley Baxter
Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member
for Finance, HR and Economic
Development

Appointment of Local Returning Officer - Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017

Report Author

Julie Edwards, Electoral Services Manager

✉ julie.edwards@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To appoint a Local Returning Officer to be responsible for administering the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral elections in South Kesteven.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 1. Approve the appointment of the Chief Executive as Local Returning Officer for the South Kesteven area for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral elections.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate priorities?

Effective council

Which wards are impacted?

(All Wards)

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The first elections of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayor will be held on 1 May 2025. The appointment of a Local Returning Officer to be responsible for administering the Mayoral elections at a local level in South Kesteven is required to be made in accordance with Schedule 2 of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.
- 1.3 The Chief Executive was appointed as Returning Officer by the Council in 2020 for the election of District and Parish/Town Councillors, in accordance with Section 35(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.
- 1.4 The appointment of a Returning Officer for the Combined County Authority Mayor elections taking place on 1 May 2025 must be made prior to the commencement of the pre-election period which begins on 19 March 2025.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

2. Background

- 2.1. The Electoral Commission has advised each Council to formally appoint an officer of the Council as Local Returning Officer for each area within the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority. This is a requirement of the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.
- 2.2. The appointed Local Returning Officer will be responsible for administering the Combined County Authority Mayoral elections at a local level for the District Council area.

- 2.3. The Combined County Authority must also appoint one of its officers, or one of the officers of a Constituent Council, to be the Combined County Authority Returning Officer (CCARO) for the election. Rob Walsh, Chief Executive of North East Lincolnshire Council, has been appointed as the CCARO for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral elections.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. The Chief Executive is already appointed as Returning Officer for the delivery of local elections and has been appointed as Deputy Returning Officer for the Lincolnshire County Council elections scheduled to take place alongside the Mayoral elections on 1 May 2025.
- 3.2. The recommendation to appoint the Chief Executive as the Local Returning Officer for the Combined County Authority Mayoral elections will ensure a consistent delivery of both elections.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. No other options were considered. It is a requirement to appoint a Local Returning Officer to be responsible for the delivery of the Combined County Authority Mayoral elections in South Kesteven.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. The Council is required to appoint a Returning Officer to be responsible for organisation and delivery of the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority Mayoral elections in South Kesteven.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1. Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017