

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

13 September 2023

Report by the Director of Business Operations and PartnershipsAPPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To appoint a Returning Officer following the retirement of the former Chief Executive on 7 July 2023.

**REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1983**

2. In terms of Section 41 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, every local authority in Scotland has to appoint an officer of the authority to be the Returning Officer for each election of councillors for the authority. From this appointment flows the appointment of the Returning Officer for all other types of election e.g. UK Parliamentary Election and Scottish Parliamentary Election.
3. Once appointed, a returning officer holds that position until death, resignation or is for any other reason unable to act in that capacity. Although the Council is responsible for appointing a person to the office of Returning Officer, it should be noted that the office of Returning Officer is a distinct office from any office or employment, which the Returning Officer holds, which qualifies him/her to be appointed as Returning Officer.
4. Most local authorities in Scotland have appointed their Chief Executives as Returning Officer and East Renfrewshire Council has continued to do so since 2008 when its' then Returning Officer, the then Director of Central Services retired.

**RECOMMENDATION**

5. Recommended that the Council appoint Steven Quinn, Chief Executive, as Returning Officer with effect from 13 September 2023.

Legislation

Access to Information Act 1985

Representation of the People Act 1983

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