

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

22 FEBRUARY 2017

REPORT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

**APPOINTMENT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER – THE ELECTION OF A
MAYOR FOR THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY**

SUMMARY

A Returning Officer is required to be appointed by the Council specifically for the purposes of the election of a Mayor for the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

This report therefore asks the Council to reaffirm its previous decisions regarding the appointment of David Bond as the Council's Returning Officer, but with particular reference to the Tees Valley Mayoral election to be held on 4 May 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The Council reaffirms its appointment of David Bond as its Returning Officer in relation to the election of a Mayor for the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

DETAIL

1. The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017, made on 30 January 2017 requires a constituent council to appoint a Returning Officer in connection with a combined authority mayoral election.
2. This is an explicit requirement in the legislation. Guidance subsequently issued by the Electoral Commission emphasises this, and that a formal appointment needs to be made for the purpose of a combined authority mayoral election.
3. Whilst previous decisions by the Council have implicitly appointed David Bond as Returning Officer for the 4 May Mayoral election, for the avoidance of any doubt, Council is asked to make an explicit decision to that effect.
4. Each of the other Tees Valley Combined Authority constituent councils are taking similar action to appoint their Returning Officer.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

5. There is no requirement for an assessment.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

6. There are no direct financial implications.

Legal

7. This report will ensure compliance with the requirements of the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. The proposed decision will remove any risks relating to the Returning Officer appointment.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

9. Stronger communities and local democracy.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

10. No implications arising directly from this report.

CONSULTATION

11. Arrangements regarding the Tees Valley Mayoral election have been the subject of previous discussions with and decisions by Members.

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| <u>Education related</u> | No |
| <u>Background Papers:</u> | None |
| <u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u> | Not ward specific |
| <u>Property Implications:</u> | None |