APPONINTMENT OF LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

Sections 8 and 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the County Council to appoint one of its officers to be an Electoral Registration Officer and a Returning Officer for local government elections to the County Council and to community councils within its administrative boundaries.

Section 28 of the 1983 Act appoints the local Electoral Registration Officer to be the Acting Returning Officer responsible for Parliamentary elections. Similarly, Section 6 of the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 makes the local Returning Officer the Returning Officer for European Parliamentary elections and, further, the European Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers) Order 2013 appoints the local Returning Officer for the Preseli Pembrokeshire Parliamentary constituency as Regional Returning Officer for Wales. Prior to the next European Parliamentary elections, there will be a competitive process open to all local Returning Officers in Wales for the position of Regional Returning Officer.

The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2007 appoints the local Returning Officer appointed under section 35 of the 1983 Act to be responsible for elections within the administrative boundary; and the Representation of the People (National Assembly for Wales) (Relevant Registration Officer) Order 2007 Order appoints the local Returning Officer for Pembrokeshire County Council as Returning Officer for the constituency of Carmarthenshire West and South Pembrokeshire. The local Returning Officer appointed by the Council has also been appointed as the Regional Returning Officer for the Mid and West Wales regional constituency for the National Assembly.

Section 54 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 appoints the local Returning Officer to be the Returning Officer for Police and Crime Commissioner elections and Schedule 2 of the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Designation of Police Area Returning Officers) (No.2) Order 2012 appoints the Acting Returning Officer for the Preseli Pembrokeshire Parliamentary Constituency as the Police Area Returning Officer.

The Electoral Registration Officer has the statutory responsibility for the compilation and maintenance of the electoral roll. The Returning Officer has the statutory responsibility for the proper conduct of elections, which includes local government elections, United Kingdom Parliamentary elections, National Assembly for Wales

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council appoints Ian Westley, Acting Head of Paid Service, to be the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer pursuant to sections 8 and 35 of the 1983 Act.

Background Documents: None