Item 7 (b) – Appointment of a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for Parish Polls

The attached report was considered by the Governance Committee, relevant minute extract below:

Governance Committee – 20 October 2015 (Minute 12)

The Senior Electoral Officer presented a report which recommended that Council appoint a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer and also a Returning Officer for Parish and Community Polls.

The report identified that the appointment of a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer would reduce the risks of not being able to administer electoral register hearings within the statutory timescale in the event that the Electoral Registration Officer was absent for a long period. A Returning Officer would need to be appointed for the conduct of any Parish Poll, which was held under its own electoral rules. No such Returning Officer had previously been appointed but traditionally the Chief Executive had been appointed to all Returning Officer roles.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that

a) the Chief Officer for Corporate Support be appointed Deputy Electoral Registration Officer for the Sevenoaks District Council; and

b) the Chief Executive be appointed as Returning Officer for any polls held under the Parish and Community Meetings (Polls) Rules 1987.