

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Request for Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) Decision: GLRO20-01

Title: Appointment of Deputy Greater London Returning Officer (DGLRO)

Executive Summary:

Following the retirement of Mark Roberts, and the resulting vacancy in the position of Deputy Greater London Returning Officer, expressions of interest in this role were sought from officers at Assistant Director and Head of Unit level.

It is now recommended that Alex Conway be appointed as Deputy Greater London Returning Officer and that he shall have the power to discharge all GLRO functions.

Decision:

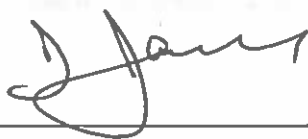
That the Greater London Returning Officer approves:

- I. The appointment of Alex Conway, under Section 35(4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as deputy to the GLRO with power (subject to the GLRO) to discharge all GLRO functions in respect of GLA Mayoral and Assembly elections.
- II. The payment of a £12k per annum additional allowance to the post holder for the duration of his appointment.

Greater London Returning Officer

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date

8.1.18

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE GLRO

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Greater London Returning Officer has the power to appoint a deputy to discharge his functions as returning officer.
- 1.2 Mark Roberts, the previous DGLRO, retired from the GLA in June 2017, and expressions of interest were sought from those at Assistant Director and Head of Unit level to take up this role. Subsequently the GLRO proposes to appoint Alex Conway as the Deputy GLRO, to deputise where necessary for Jeff Jacobs.
- 1.3 Attached to this role will be a £12k per annum allowance to reflect the additional duties Alex Conway will be undertaking, and which will start on 1 December 2017.

The Role

- 1.4 To support the GLRO in the planning of, preparation for, and delivery of, the Mayoral and Assembly Elections. The precise activities will vary over time as, in particular, the work programme develops in the period leading up to the 2020 Elections. But the work is expected to include:
- Preparatory work for determining the approach to counting the election results, including any e-counting procurement
 - Day to day oversight of the GLRO's Elections Working Group programme, including liaison with key workstream leads in the GLA
 - Liaison with external organisations on matters relating to GLA elections, including the Cabinet Office, the Electoral Commission, and the London Boroughs and the City of London.
 - Maintaining effective liaison and consultation arrangements with political parties and stakeholders relevant to the management of elections
 - Developing and maintaining arrangements to achieve, and demonstrate achievement of, compliance with the performance framework for electoral services
 - Ensuring proper monitoring and management of allocated 2020 Election budgets.

2. Issues for consideration

Impact Assessments and Consultation

- 2.1 None

Equalities comments

- 2.2 The appointment was open to all staff at Assistant Director and Head of Unit level. The GLRO is satisfied that the procedure followed in respect of the appointment complied with section 39 of the Equality Act 2010. The GLRO considers that the selection process had due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, in accordance with section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Protected characteristics under section 149 of the Equality Act are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and

maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status (all except the last being “relevant” protected characteristics)

Risk

- 2.3 The appointment of a Deputy GLRO will provide business continuity capacity in the event of the GLRO’s absence.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1 The expenditure of £12,000 for the DGLRO’s additional allowance will be funded by the Elections General budget.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1 Under section 35(4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the GLRO may appoint one or more persons to discharge all or any of his functions.
- 4.2 In making any appointment, the GLRO must act in a non-discriminatory way in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

5. Background/supporting papers

- 5.1 None

Public access to information

Although the GLRO is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act), the information in this form will be disclosed upon request and may be made available to the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. Any facts and advice that should not be made available upon request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where immediate release would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of this approval to be deferred? **NO**

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Is there a part 2 form - **NO**

	Tick to indicate approval (✓)
GLRO Jeff Jacobs has reviewed the request and is satisfied that: • The details are correct • The equalities issues/impact have been considered • Freedom of Information, Data Protection and other information access issues have been considered and the information contained in Part 1 of this form is suitable for publication • Where release of Part 1 has been deferred I confirm that the reason given and the date stated for release are appropriate.	 ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Executive Director, Resources

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial and legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

Signature 

Date 8.1.18