The Returning Officer:

The Returning Officer is the person who has the overall responsibility for the conduct of elections. The Returning Officer is appointed under the Representation of the People Act 1983, if the Returning Officer is appointed from within a Local Authority (in many cases is the Chief Executive of an Authority), the role is one of a personal nature and distinct and separate from their duties as an employee of the council. The Returning Officer is responsible for:

- the nomination process for candidates and political parties
- provision and notification of polling stations
- appointment of Presiding Officers and polling clerks
- appropriate administration and security of polling stations
- preparation of all ballot papers
- the actual count and declaration of results
- issue, receipt and counting of postal ballot papers
- all candidates' election expenses returns
- presentation of final account and,
- reclamation of funding from external bodies as prescribed

The appointed Returning Officer for the County Council area of Carmarthenshire is Mark James CBE, the council's Chief Executive. Mr James is also the Deputy Returning Officer for the Carmarthen East and Dinefwr Parliamentary and Assembly Constituency and the Llanelli Parliamentary and Assembly Constituency as well as being the appointed an Assistant Deputy Returning Officer for the Wales Electoral Region in elections to the European Parliament.
Election Expenses

For parliamentary and local government elections, details of election expenses must be submitted to the returning officer, or proper officer for local government elections, within 35 days after the election result is declared.

For parliamentary and local government elections the election agent (not the candidate, unless they are their own election agent) must make the return. For Town/Community council elections the time limit is twenty eight days for the delivery to the proper officer of the council.

Election expenses returns are available for public inspection on request - contact the Electoral Services Office.

Contact Details:

Electoral Services, 1 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1LE

Tele: 01267 228750

Email: Electoralservices@carmarthenshire.gov.uk