

Meeting: COUNCIL

Agenda Item:

Date: 5 December 2007

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SCALE OF FEES AND EXPENSES PAYABLE AT BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - REVIEW

Lead Officer - Peter Ollis Ext No. 2225

1 PURPOSE

To seek approval for a revised scale of fees and expenses payable for Borough Council Elections.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the revised scale of fees and expenses for Borough Council Elections, set out in Appendix B to this Report, be approved, to apply with effect from 1 May 2008.

3 BACKGROUND

The existing fees and expenses Order (Appendix A to this Report) has not been revised since 1999, although a number of functions involved in the elections process and which have a direct bearing on the level of fees and expenses, have changed since that time.

A number of those fees and expenses require revision to bring them into line with current tasks and costs.

For example, the original Order allowed for increases annually for each fee by the same percentage as the pay award for that year. The revised recommended fees have included those percentages.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 included provisions which;

Extended the opening hours for polling stations at local elections (8am to 9pm being altered to 7am to 10pm), to bring them in line with the opening hours for national elections. As well as increasing the costs for hiring the various premises used as polling stations, it also meant that polling staff were working those

additional hours and this needed to be reflected in the new fees and expenses Order;

Included a requirement for the Electoral Registration Officer to arrange for personal canvassing (a minimum of two visits) to properties where the Voter Registration Form or relevant details had not been provided to the Electoral Services Office. This in itself is a very costly procedure, with canvassers having to be paid a significant rate for collecting completed forms.

Postal Voting

The existing fees and expenses Order included details for the various postal voting preparations and processes, based on, back in 1999, approximately 1,500 registered postal voters. That figure rose to over 20,000 registered postal voters, following the introduction of Regulations in 2001, which removed specific criteria for applying for postal votes and enabled postal voting on demand. As the present level of registered postal voters is over 22,000, the review recognised the need to adjust the fees and expenses rates accordingly.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER OPTIONS

The revised fees and expenses are proposed at a level aimed at bringing them into line with current tasks and costs.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The documents set out in Appendices A and B to this Report.

APPENDICES

- [Appendix A - The existing scale of fees and expenses Order for Local Elections in Stevenage](#)
- [Appendix B - The proposed revised scale of fees and expenses for Local Elections in Stevenage](#)