

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

27th FEBRUARY 2007

FEES FOR ELECTION DUTIES

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Mrs C Spencer
Responsible Head of Service	Claire Felton

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider granting delegated powers for the setting of fees for election duties.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Returning Officer be given delegated powers to set, within the approved budget, the fees for various election duties and to make payments to those employed by the Returning Officer to carryout the duties related to an election.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Section 36 (4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires that all expenditure properly incurred by a Returning Officer for the election of a Councillor shall be paid by that Council. Each year this Council allocates appropriate budgets to allow elections to take place. Part of the costs of running elections is the payments of fees to various people employed by the returning officer to carryout specific election duties e.g Presiding Officer, Count Supervisor. At present no specific delegation exists to enable the Returning Officer to make such payments or to set the levels of payments for each of the duties required to carryout an election. In setting the payment fees the Returning Officer needs to be aware of fees set by neighbouring Councils as well as taking in to account the need to attract people to take up those duties. Therefore in order to facilitate clear and open decision making delegated authority is sought.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Specific budgets are allocated for election duties and this report relates to expenditure of those budgets

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The funding of election expenses is covered by the Representation of the People Act 1983

6. CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

6.1 Improvement – Reputation and Performance

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 This report seeks to ensure that the Council can recruit the required number of staff to carry out the duties associated with elections. If the Council is unable to remain competitive with adjoining authorities it risks not being able to achieve this. The lack of delegations may result in the delay of setting fees and thus attracting suitable staff.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues None
Personnel Implications None
Governance/Performance Management None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 None
Policy None
Environmental None
Equalities and Diversity None

10. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Acting Chief Executive	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Author
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Author
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

11. APPENDICES

None

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: John Wright
E Mail: j.wright@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881411