



## **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

**10 MARCH 2017**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2017**

#### **SCALE OF ELECTION EXPENSES**

#### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Constitution Committee's approval with regard to a Scale of Fees to be used at the County Council elections in May 2017.

#### **Background**

2. The Chief Executive is the Returning Officer for elections of County Councillors and, as such, is responsible for conducting the elections in accordance with statutory rules. Officers of the District Councils are appointed as Deputy Returning Officers and the majority of the election work is carried out by their staff.
3. The County Council meets the fees and expenses of the elections, subject to these not exceeding a scale fixed by the Council for the purpose. The Scale of Fees which the County Council adheres to is normally one which is used by all the districts within the County as well as Leicester City Council and is known as the Leicestershire Scale of Fees.
4. In the past it has been the County Council's practice for members to agree the Leicestershire Scale of Fees for a general election of councillors and for the Returning Officer to be authorised to approve amendments to the scheme for any intervening by-elections.

#### **Financial Implications**

5. It is calculated that the total expenditure for the County Council election will be within the budget figure set of £0.8million.
6. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on the resource implications of this report.

#### **Decisions Required**

7. The Council's functions relating to elections are exercised by this Committee and this would normally include agreeing the Scale of Fees to apply to County Council elections. It has been the practice for the scale to be fixed by Members for a general election of Councillors and for the Returning Officer to be authorised to fix a scale for intervening by-elections (to enable the scale to be updated for inflation).

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

8. Persons from various sections of the community will be employed as presiding officers, poll clerks and counting assistants on the day of the poll. All polling stations have been looked at with a view to improving access for disabled persons.

### **Recommendations**

10. That the Constitution Committee agree:-
- (a) that the attached scale of expenses be used at the County Council elections to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and for any subsequent by-elections held before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
  - (b) that the Chief Executive be authorised to fix a scale for the purpose of by-elections occurring between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and the next County Council elections.

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Circulation Under Sensitive Issues Procedure**

None.

### **Officer to Contact**

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### **Appendix**

Recommended Scale of Fees and expenses payable to returning officers at local elections – 01.04.17 to 31.03.18