

## INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	24 JUNE 2019	10
<b>LOCAL ELECTIONS</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Local Elections were held on Thursday 2 May 2019.

Members are reminded that a new charging method for Town and Parish Councils was to be piloted, and the related decision from the Finance and Democracy Committee held on 26 November 2018 is set out below:

- 1. Replace the present methodology for calculating recharges for parish council elections with the methodology based on the size of the eligible electorate, divided into bands being for the £500 for the first 1,000 electors on the electoral roll for the parish or parish ward plus £250 for each subsequent 500 Electors (or part thereof).*
- 2. Increase the fee, where an election is uncontested, to cover the known cost of the administration of the election to £100;*
- 3. Agree that the recharge methodology and the amended fee arrangements are piloted for the May 2019 elections and thereafter reviewed by the Democratic Services team with a report to committee on the Effectiveness of the pilot being presented to a subsequent meeting of this Committee.*

Five Town and Parish Councils elections were contested in the local elections as follows: Elswick, Kirkham North and St Annes on the Sea – Ashton, Kilnhouse and St Leonards.

Invoices will be issued over the forthcoming month for both the contested and uncontested elections and in the autumn, feedback will be invited from the Town and Parish Councils, through the District-Parish Liaison Group, on the charging pilot. A subsequent report will then be brought forward to this committee.

In addition, members will appreciate that much of the work associated with managing elections must comply with statutory requirements for which we are accountable to the Electoral Commission. The role of the Returning Officer must be impartial and the role is to ensure that the conduct of the elections is in accordance with the law. The Returning Officer's responsibility is one of a personal nature distinct from the duties of an employee of the Council as a reflection of this. However, where the Returning Officer is able to make adjustments and improvements, she does so year-on-year. With this in mind, feedback has also been invited from candidates and agents on the overall running of the local elections. These comments will be considered as a part of the usual post-election review process undertaken by Tracy Manning, the Returning Officer for the elections, and her core team which will take place in late June. The report being brought back to this committee as outlined will therefore also be reflective of the outcomes of this review.

**SOURCE OF INFORMATION**

Finance and Democracy Committee report 26 November 2018.

**WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?**

To provide members with an update.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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