

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	21 NOVEMBER 2022	9
<b>THE ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023 – RETURNING OFFICER FEE</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

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

#### SUMMARY

The committee papers in front of members elsewhere on the agenda provide details of the Annual Pay Policy Statement for Fylde Council, it has been a requirement for all local authorities to have a Pay Policy Statement since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 as part of the Localism Act. The objective of the Pay Policy Statement is to ensure openness, transparency, and fairness in the pay arrangements at Fylde.

The Pay Policy Statement covers the payment of election fees for local elections because the electoral arrangements for the elections are changing in 2023 because of the Local Government Boundary Commission review, this element of the Pay Policy must be reviewed.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Committee approves the methodology in paragraph 2 below for the 2023 local elections, with the formula as outlined in paragraph 3 being used thereafter and that these changes be incorporated within the draft Annual Pay Policy replacing paragraph titled 'electoral fees'.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Pay Policy Statement adopted and approved every year since 2012.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

## REPORT

1. The Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer is the Council's appointed Returning Officer by the Council and is personally (not corporately) liable for the management of elections and referenda.
2. The Returning Officer fee for scheduled borough council elections has traditionally been calculated using a formula based on the number of wards, and the number of electors in each ward. With the reduction in the number of wards following the Boundary Commission review, the fee would have reduced significantly, but without any corresponding reduction in the Returning Officer's responsibilities or workload. The recommendation is therefore that, subject to below, the Returning Officer's fee for scheduled borough council elections be fixed for the present at £3619.14, which is a figure that represents the fee that was paid for the 2019 borough council elections, adjusted for inflation.
3. Going forward it is considered more appropriate that Returning Officer fees for scheduled borough council elections should be set by reference to an independently fixed amount. It is therefore recommended that, after the next general election, the Returning Officer fee for a scheduled borough council election is varied to match the fee paid to the Returning Officer in respect of the most recent general election and is subsequently adjusted in line with the fees for general elections.
4. The fees payable to the RO would therefore be as follows:
  - UK Parliamentary and any other election or referenda organised nationally: The fee is set and paid for from Central Government.
  - Borough Council scheduled election: The fee is set locally by the council. The fee has been set at £3619.14 and will be adjusted to match the fee set for the most recent parliamentary election following the 2023 local election.
  - Borough Council by-election: The fee is set locally by the council and depends on the size of the ward. The fee is £172.34 for the first 3000 electors in the ward, then £172.34 for each 500 electors or part thereof over 3000 (fees are subject to inflation).
  - Parish Council by-election or contested scheduled elections: The fee is set locally by the council and depends on the size of the parish or parish ward. The fee is £89.13 for the first 3000 electors in the parish or parish ward, then £89.13 for each 500 electors or part thereof over 3000 (fees are subject to inflation).
  - Lancashire County Council election fees are set by the County Council.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	The fulfilment of the role of appointed Returned Officer, and associated remuneration, forms a part of the contract of employment of the Deputy Chief Executive.
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	The pay and grading scheme implemented at Fylde has been subject to equality and impact assessment. There are no direct human rights implications arising from the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Full Council	2012-date	Annual Pay Policy reports to Council