

**MEETING OF THE CABINET- WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**SCALE OF FEES AND EXPENSES FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To approve a Scale of Fees and Expenses for Borough Council Elections.

**Background**

2. At the present time there is a comprehensive Scale of Fees and Expenses, which were set by the Policy Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1999.
3. The government announced plans at the end of November to introduce secondary legislation in time for the Borough Council Elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006. As part of this secondary legislation polling hours are to be extended to correspond with Parliamentary Election hours i.e. 7:00 am – 10:00 pm. The Council is experiencing an increasing difficulty in recruiting presiding officers and poll clerks, with the increase in polling hours further difficulties will be encountered. This argues for a clear and enhanced fee structure that is in line with the structure that was adopted for the parliamentary election in May 2005.
4. Attached in Appendix 'A' is a Scale of Fees and Expenses covering all aspects of the conduct of the Elections.
5. This Scale of Fees has been drawn up based on the fees paid at the Parliamentary Election in May 2005 as recommended by the Electoral Policy Division of the Department of Constitutional Affairs.

**Summary**

6. This proposed Scale of Fees contains no increase over the current arrangements for the Returning Officer or the Head of Electoral Services.
7. The fees as contained in the suggested scale should be increased annually by the amount equal to the NJC for Local Government Services pay award as at 1<sup>st</sup> April in each year, as has been the case since the Policy Committee decision of 15<sup>th</sup> November 1999.

## **Finance**

8. The revised Scale of Fees will mean an increase in the overall cost of Elections and Electoral Registration of approximately £26,500.
9. It should be noted however that at the beginning of December the Electoral Policy Division of the Department of Constitutional Affairs announced that there would be additional funding made available to Councils, for the sole purpose of the extra costs that will be incurred in the running of Elections and Electoral Administration with the implementation of new legislation. This funding will be made available for the next two years.

## **Law**

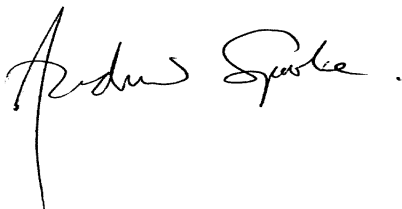
10. Section 36 (4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 enables the Council to fix a Scale of Fees and Expenditure incurred in the connection with the election of Councillors.

## **Equality Impact**

11. There are no equality and diversity issues relating to the this report.

## **Recommendation**

12. That the Scale of Fees and Expenses as contained in the Appendix 'A' be approved with effect for all local elections held after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006.



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## **Chief Executive**

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