

Report of the Interim Strategic Director

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS MAY 20191. Purpose of report

To seek approval to the fees to be paid for polling staff in May 2019 and the appointment of a temporary Electoral Services Assistant.

2. Background

A voter ID pilot will be run at the Borough/Parish elections in Broxtowe in 2019 based on the mixed model. This will require electors ID to produce ID which will be checked by polling staff before a ballot paper is issued to them. ID checking will be an additional responsibility for both Poll Clerks and Presiding Officers. Running the pilot will also place increased demands on Electoral Services, not only in terms of the actual organisation, but in the number of calls likely to be received from electors.

Fees for polling staff are approved annually in March as part of the Council's Pay Policy. The additional responsibility to be placed on both Poll Clerks and Presiding Officers required by the pilot is not reflected in the current fees. To acknowledge this it is proposed to increase the fees paid to them for the 2019 elections as an exception to the policy.

Until May 2017 a Temporary Electoral Registration Canvasser, grade 3, was in post. The post holder worked full time in the run up to the elections, helping out with registration as well as postal vote opening, setting up the count and dealing with general enquiries. It is therefore proposed to recruit to a temporary post again for between 18 March (proposed publication of the Notice of Election) to 3 May 2019 on the same terms and conditions as the previous post holder.

3. Financial implications

The additional costs of polling staff and the temporary Electoral Services Assistant are set out in the appendix. There is no budget provision for the increased fees or the temporary post. However, Cabinet Office has stated that it will meet the costs incurred in running the pilot. These have been submitted and confirmation is awaited that they will be reimbursed.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the proposed payments to polling station staff as an exception to the Pay Policy and the employment of a temporary Electoral Services Assistant on grade 3 as set out in the report, subject to the costs being met by the Cabinet Office, be approved.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

1. Additional polling fees

	Current fee	Proposed fee for pilot	Additional cost
Poll Clerk – single election	£128.00	£153.60	£1,955
Poll Clerk – combined election	£153.60	£184.30	£2,046
Presiding Officer – single election	£208.00	£249.60	£1,510
Presiding Officer – combined election	£249.60	£299.50	£1,535
		Total	£7,047

The proposed increase has been based on the 20% uplift which is paid for combined elections.

2. Temporary Electoral Services Assistant

It is proposed to employ a temporary Electoral Services Assistant on grade 3 for a period of 9 weeks. With oncosts, it is anticipated that the total cost of this will be £4,000.

The above additional fees and the cost of the temporary Electoral Services Assistant will be met by the Cabinet Office.