

TITLE OF REPORT: ELECTORAL SERVICES 2012/13 – SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to assist Council in setting a Scale of Fees and Charges for electoral events to be held during the Financial Year 2012/13.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At Appendix A to this report is a recommended scale of fees and charges.
- 2.2 The Scheme will apply to any District, Town or Parish Council election, Parish Poll or Business Investment District ballot held during the period. The District Council has an obligation to provide resources to support other polls and elections. These include parliamentary elections and the forthcoming proposed police commissioner election for Hertfordshire. Members should note that such other electoral events are fully recoverable from the Government.
- 2.3 The Scheme sets out the types of staff required to service electoral events together with the intended level of remuneration.

3. ISSUES

- 3.1 No increase in any of the fees is recommended for 2012/13. This is an area that is subject to an annual review. Informal soundings, indicate that the levels recommended will be comparable with neighbouring authorities in the key area of Polling Station Staff in a very competitive market (residents of North Herts and employees of the Council have, realistically, six returning officers to offer their services to).

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In setting a scale of fees and charges the Council is complying with The Representation of The People Act 1983, (section 36).

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of the proposed scale of fees and charges is contained within the budget assumptions for 2012/13 to be approved by Council in February 2012. Should the proposed police commissioner election take place on 15 November 2012, nationally determined rates will apply.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Scale of Fees and Charges for the employment of staff to assist the Returning Officer in conducting district, town and parish Elections, parish polls and business investment district ballots held during the Financial Year 2012/13, set out at Appendix A to this report, be approved.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To enable the Council to set a Scale of Fees and Charges for 2012/13.

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix A - Proposed Scale of Fees and Charges 2012/13.

10. CONTACT OFFICERS

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11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 None.