

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 22 APRIL 2015

SCALE OF ELECTION FEES AND EXPENDITURE 2015-16

Report by County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Introduction

1. Each year the Council needs to set a scale of election fees and expenditure for the holding of elections of county councillors. The Committee are requested to approve the proposed Scale of Expenditure as set out for any by-elections of County Councillors that may be held during 2015/16.
2. The same scale of expenditure will be used for any local referendums e.g. a council tax or mayoral referendum.

Purpose of the Scale of Fees

3. The purpose of the scale of fees and expenditure is to set out the amounts that can be charged for organising and running county council elections and by-elections. In practice, this means that these will be amounts that the district councils will claim back from the County Council for running elections on its behalf.
4. As you will see from the scale some of these costs are fixed and some are “actual and necessary costs”.
5. The mileage rate is linked to the national authorised ‘all car’ rate of 45p per mile.

Levels for 2015/16

6. It is proposed for the fees and levels of expenditure to remain as they were in 2014/15. Due to a full review having been undertaken with the City and District Councils for the period 2013/14, following consultation it was unanimously agreed that these figures are appropriate benchmark costs, in line with those of their own individual scales of fees and expenditure.
7. The City and District Councils have indicated that the proposed scale of fees would be acceptable to them in the running of elections on the County Council’s behalf.

Financial and Staff Implications

8. There are no significant financial implications and no staffing implications.

9. A separate budget is maintained for electoral expenditure, which is built up over time towards the County Council elections, next due to be held in 2017. This also incorporates an element towards by-election costs.

RECOMMENDATION

10. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve the Scale of Expenditure for the financial year 2015/2016, as shown in Annex A to this report, for the election of County Councillors and any other local referendums.**

Peter G Clark
County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Background papers: Nil

Contact Officer: Andrea Newman,
Senior Democracy Officer
Telephone: 01865 810283

April 2015