

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1983 (SECTION 36(4))

SCALE OF EXPENDITURE FOR ELECTIONS OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS

(Applicable to elections held during period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027)

Only the fees and disbursements specified below shall be chargeable. The fees payable to the Returning Officer or their duly appointed Deputy Returning Officer shall include all payments which they make from their fees to other persons by way of remuneration of services undertaken on their behalf.

In no case shall a charge exceed the sum actually and necessarily paid or payable by the Returning Officer. Subject to this the maximum charges are set out in the scale. These fees will apply to County Council elections.

PART I - UNCONTESTED ELECTION

A – FEES	April 2025 – March 2026	April 2026 – March 2027 Proposed Fees	Notes
1. To the Returning Officer, for conducting the election and generally performing the duties required by any enactments relating to the election, other than any duties for which separate fees are provided. For a vacancy in an Electoral Division, a fee of	1-member £56.50	£58.00	3.2% - Local government (LG) pay settlement – rounded up to nearest 0.5
2. To a Deputy Returning Officer appointed for the purposes of conducting and generally performing the duties assigned by the Returning Officer, other than duties for which separate fees are provided.			

For a vacancy in an Electoral Division, a fee of	1-member £39.00	£40.00	3.2% - LG pay settlement – rounded up to nearest 0.5
B – DISBURSMENTS	April 2025 – March 2026	April 2026 – March 2027 Proposed Fees	Notes
3. Preparation of poll cards and postal vote cards for supervising the preparation and issue of official poll and postal vote cards. For a vacancy in an Electoral Division, a fee of.....	1-member £22.50	£23.00	3.2% - LG pay settlement – rounded up to the nearest 0.5
4. For the employment of persons for clerical and other assistance. For a vacancy in an Electoral Division	1-member £26.50	£27.50	3.2% - LG pay settlement
5. Travelling expenses of the Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer and Assistants. Per mile.....	£0.45 (HMRC rate)	£0.45 (HMRC rate)	Complies with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) banding
6. For printing and providing forms, notices and other documents required for the election, including the printing costs, computer charges and all associated costs of producing official poll and postal vote cards, together with advertising expenses, postage, telephone calls and miscellaneous expenses	Actual and necessary cost	No change	

PART II - CONTESTED ELECTION

A – FEES	April 2025 – March 2026	April 2026 – March 2027 Proposed Fees	Notes
<p>7. To the Returning Officer, for conducting the election and generally performing the duties required by any enactments relating to the election, other than any duties for which separate fees are provided. For a vacancy in an Electoral Division, a fee of.....</p>	£118.00	£122.00	3.2% - LG pay settlement (rounded to nearest 0.5)
<p>8. To a Deputy Returning Officer appointed for the purposes of conducting and generally performing the duties assigned by the Returning Officer, other than duties for which separate fees are provided. For a vacancy in an Electoral Division, a fee of</p>	£110.50	£114.00	3.2% - LG pay settlement (rounded to nearest 0.5)

(If a duly appointed Deputy Returning Officer also carries out the functions specified under Item 9 of this scale, they will not be entitled to claim the fees payable under both item 8 and item 9 of the scale)

<p>9. To a Deputy Returning Officer appointed solely for making arrangements for counting the votes and declaring the result of the poll. For clarity, this fee is intended only in the event of a decentralised count.</p>			
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For a vacancy in an Electoral Division, a fee of.....	£74.00	£76.50	3.2% - LG pay settlement (rounded to nearest 0.5)
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(A Deputy Returning Officer appointed under this item cannot claim the fee payable under item 14 of this scale)

9A. For each Recount.....	£18.50	£19.00	3.2% - LG pay settlement (rounded to nearest 0.5)
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B – DISBURSEMENTS	April 2025 – March 2026	April 2026 – March 2027 Proposed Fees	
10. Presiding Officer, a fee of..... or where a poll is combined with one other Poll a fee of..... or in the event of three or more polls being held at the same time a fee of.....	£280.00 £310.00 £338.00	£288.00 £318.00 (% difference) £346.00 (% difference)	Complies with MHCLG banding.
11. Poll Clerk, a fee of..... or where a poll is combined with one other Poll, a fee of..... or in the event of three or more polls being held at the same time, a fee of.....	£220.00 £229.00 £243.00	£227.00 £236.00 (% difference) £250.00 (% difference)	Complies with MHCLG banding & Oxford Living Wage.

(Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks may not include any additional expenses i.e. electricity charges, other than travelling expenses specified in item 23 of this scale, without the prior written express agreement of the (Deputy) Returning Officer.)

12. An additional poll clerk may be employed full-time or part-time at a polling station at the discretion of the Returning Officer or his duly appointed Deputy Returning Officer, and will be paid the fee payable under Item 11 of this scale,			
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or an appropriate proportionate amount as applicable.			
13. Stand-by staff (Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks) who may be sent to a place of poll within the polling area in the event of emergency. This fee will be replaced by a fee set out at points 10 or 11 should staff be sent to a place of poll.	£51.00	£52.50	3.2% LG pay settlement – rounded to nearest 0.5
14. For the provision of training for polling station staff and Polling Station Inspectors including a payment for staff undertaking the training. This may be used in respect of any payment made for the collection of the ballot box ahead of an election by staff. To be distributed by the Deputy Returning Officer at their discretion. A fee of:.....	£61.50 per presiding officer and poll clerk	£63.50 per presiding officer, poll clerk and polling station inspectors	3.2% - LG pay settlement – rounded to nearest 0.5 Complies with MHCLG combined banding for training, preparation & delivery banding rates
15. Counting Management Team: A fee of (a) for the first hour..... (b) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof..... In respect of overnight working (between the hours of 9.00pm-8.00am) and Saturday working	£25.50 £12.75	£26.50 £13.25	3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding

<p>(c) for the first hour.....</p> <p>(d) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p> <p><u>Weekend working:</u> Sunday working</p> <p>(e) for the first hour.....</p> <p>(f) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p>	<p>£38.50</p> <p>£19.25</p> <p>£51.00</p> <p>£25.50</p>	<p>£39.50</p> <p>£19.75</p> <p>£53.00</p> <p>£26.50</p>	<p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding and in line with advice from MHCLG with regards to weekend working rates</p> <p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding and in line with advice from MHCLG with regards to weekend working rates</p>
<p>16. Counting/Verification Supervisor: A fee of</p> <p>(a) for the first hour.....</p> <p>(b) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p> <p>In respect of overnight working (between the hours of 9.00pm-8.00am) and Saturday working</p> <p>(c) for the first hour.....</p> <p>(d) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p> <p><u>Weekend working:</u> Sunday working</p> <p>(e) for the first hour.....</p>	<p>£20.00</p> <p>£10.00</p> <p>£30.00</p> <p>£15.00</p> <p>£40.00</p>	<p>£20.50</p> <p>£10.25</p> <p>£31.00</p> <p>£15.50</p> <p>£41.00</p>	<p>3.2% - LG pay settlement – rounded to nearest 0.5 Complies with MHCLG banding</p> <p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding and in line with advice from MHCLG with regards to weekend working rates</p> <p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding and in line with</p>

(f) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....	£20.00	£20.50	advice from MHCLG with regards to weekend working rate
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<p>17. Counting/Verification Assistant Supervisor: A fee of</p> <p>(a) for the first hour.....</p> <p>(b) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p> <p>In respect of overnight working (between the hours of 9.00pm-8.00am) and Saturday working</p> <p>(c) for the first hour.....</p> <p>(d) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p> <p><u>Weekend working:</u> Sunday working</p> <p>(e) for the first hour.....</p> <p>(f) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p>	<p>£18.00</p> <p>£9.00</p> <p>£27.00</p> <p>£13.50</p> <p>£36.00</p> <p>£18.00</p>	<p>£18.50</p> <p>£9.25</p> <p>£28.00</p> <p>£14.00</p> <p>£37.00</p> <p>£18.50</p>	<p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding</p> <p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding and in line with advice from MHCLG with regards to weekend working rate</p> <p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding and in line with advice from MHCLG with regards to weekend working rate</p>
<p>18. Counting/Verification Assistant: A fee of</p> <p>(a) for the first hour.....</p> <p>(b) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p> <p>In respect of overnight working (between the hours of 9.00pm-8.00am) and Saturday working</p> <p>(c) for the first hour.....</p>	<p>£15.50</p> <p>£7.75</p> <p>£23.00</p>	<p>£16.00</p> <p>£8.00</p> <p>£23.00</p>	<p>3.2% - LG pay settlement</p> <p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding and in line with advice from MHCLG with</p>

<p>(d) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p> <p><u>Weekend working:</u> Sunday working (e) for the first hour..... (f) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p>	<p>£11.50</p> <p>£31.00</p> <p>£15.50</p>	<p>£11.50</p> <p>£32.00</p> <p>£16.00</p>	<p>regards to weekend working rate</p> <p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding and in line with advice from MHCLG with regards to weekend working rate</p>
<p>19. For the employment of persons for clerical and all other assistance other than where separate fees are provided. (County Elections ONLY) For each Electoral Division a fee of</p>	<p>£151.00</p>	<p>£156.00</p>	<p>3.2% - LG pay settlement 3.2% - LG pay settlement</p>
<p>20. Preparation and issue of poll cards and postal vote cards, for supervising the preparation and issue of official poll and postal vote cards. (County Elections ONLY) For each Electoral Division, a fee of</p>	<p>£22.50</p>	<p>£23.00</p>	<p>3.2% - LG pay settlement 3.2% - LG pay settlement</p>

<p>21. To an officer designated by the Returning Officer or his duly appointed Deputy, for inspection and supervision of polling stations, a fee of..... OR where a poll is combined with one other Poll a fee of..... OR in the event of three or more polls being held at the same time, a fee of.....</p>	<p>£307.00 £363.00 £393.00</p>	<p>£317.00 £375.00 (% difference) £406.00 (% difference)</p>	<p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Complies with MHCLG banding</p>
<p>22. For preparation of ballot boxes. For each polling station, a fee of.....</p>	<p>£11.00 – no change</p>	<p>£13.00</p>	<p>Complies with MHCLG banding</p>
<p>23. Supervisor for the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers. A fee of: (a) for the first hour..... (b) for each half hour thereafter or part thereof.....</p>	<p>£18.00 £9.00</p>	<p>£19.00 £9.50</p>	<p>3.2% - LG pay settlement Does not comply with MHCLG banding</p>
<p>24. For the employment of persons in connection with the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers, the total sum of which to be distributed by the Deputy Returning Officer at their discretion. A fee of.....</p>	<p>£0.90 per postal vote</p>	<p>£0.90 per postal vote No change</p>	<p>Complies with Oxford Living Wage & MHCLG banding</p>
<p>25. Hire of rooms in connection with the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers</p>	<p>Actual and necessary cost</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p style="background-color: #cccccc;"></p>

<p>26. For travelling expenses of the Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, Polling Staff and Count Staff, and for posting Notices of Election and Notices of Poll. Per mile.....</p>	<p>£0.45 (HMRC rate)</p>	<p>£0.45 (HMRC rate)</p>	
<p>27. Hire of rooms for the preparation of ballot boxes</p>	<p>Actual and necessary cost</p>	<p>No change</p>	
<p>28. For preparing a room for the purpose of a poll, and of a count, and cleaning and reinstating the room (per station) (a) in the case of a school maintained by a local authority, which may be used free of hire charge, the caretaker's fee is to be paid in accordance with the allowances in force in the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service; or any local agreement; and (b) in any other building.....</p>	<p>Actual and necessary cost</p> <p>Actual and necessary cost</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>No change</p>	
<p>29. Heating and lighting (per polling station) ...</p>	<p>Actual and necessary cost</p>	<p>No change</p>	

30. Conveyance of ballot boxes and voting screens.....	Actual and necessary cost	No change	
31. Compensation payable in consequence of the cancellation of functions in order to make suitable premises available for use as polling stations or places of count.....	Actual and necessary cost	No change	
32. For provision of ballot boxes and voting screens, for printing notices, ballot papers and other forms and documents required, including the printing costs, computer charges and all associated costs of producing the official poll and postal vote cards, and for stationery, advertising, postage, telephone calls, bank charges and miscellaneous expenses.....	Actual and necessary cost	No change	

NOTE: Where there is any combination of poll with District or Parish Councillors, wherever appropriate and as far as practicable, the costs are to be shared on an equal basis between the relevant Authorities, unless a particular expense can be allocated to a specific poll.

Returning Officer
February 2026