

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Council

Date of meeting: 9th December 2021

Title: Fees for the County Council and Town / Community Council Elections to be held 5th May 2022

Purpose of the report: For Council to approve the fees payable for the combined local elections to be held on 5th May 2022

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member: N/A – Returning Officer responsibility

County Council and Town / Community Council Elections

The fees payable to the Returning Officer in respect of these Elections and all associated costs relating to them are determined locally and are funded by the County Council and the Town / Community Councils. This includes payments to persons employed by the Returning Officer to undertake the following tasks:

- (i) The preparation, revision and issue of official poll cards;
- (ii) The issue and receipt of postal ballot papers;
- (iii) The verification of the ballot paper accounts;
- (iv) The count; and
- (v) Any other clerical or other assistance for the purposes of the election.

The County Council has earmarked reserves to cover the costs of holding the local elections on 5th May 2022 and there will be full cost recovery for any Town / Community Councils as per the Council's Income Management and Services Cost Recovery Policy.

Scheme for the calculation of the Returning Officer's fees and those undertaking the role of Deputy Returning Officers for the County Council and Town / Community Council Election on 5th May 2022

The following is a proposed scheme for calculating the fee payable to the Returning Officer and those undertaking the role of Deputy Returning Officers for the Local Elections in May 2022 and reflects an inflationary increase of 2.5% from 2017:

County Council Elections:	£174.00 per contested Ward £67.00 per uncontested Ward
Town / Community Council Elections:	£174.00 per contested Town / Community Council £67.00 per uncontested Town / Community Council

Wellbeing of Future Generations:	<p>Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? No – not a service change.</p> <p>If, not, please state why</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>Long term: N/A</p> <p>Integration: N/A</p> <p>Collaboration: N/A</p> <p>Involvement: N/A</p> <p>Prevention: N/A</p>
---	---

Recommendation(s): For Council to approve the following:

- (i) That the fees payable to the Returning Officer and those undertaking the role of Deputy Returning Officers for the County Council and Town / Community Councils be as follows:
 - £174.00 per contested election;
 - £67.00 per uncontested election;
 -
- (ii) To authorise the Chief Executive as the Council’s Returning Officer to:
 - a) Make arrangements for the employment of persons to assist with the Local Elections to be held 5th May 2022;
 - b) Determine the level of fees and payments to those employed on Election duties, subject to the total amount payable being within the available resources earmarked to cover the cost of these elections;
- (iii) There will be full cost recovery for any costs incurred for Town / Community Council elections.

Reasons for decision: To determine certain fees payable for the combined local elections on 5th May 2022.

Overview and Scrutiny: N/A

Policy Framework: Council’s Constitution
Income Management and Services Cost Recovery Policy

Corporate Priorities: N/A

Finance and Procurement implications: Within the existing budget set aside in earmarked reserves for the costs of holding the local elections in 2022.

Legal Implications: See Statutory Powers below.

Staffing implications: Failure to recruit sufficient staff for the elections will result in our inability to meet the legislative requirement of local government elections.

Property / asset implications: None.

Risk(s): Failure to meet the statutory requirements of the legislative requirement of local government elections.

Statutory Powers:

- Representation of the People Act 1983;
- Representation of the People Act, the Representation of the People Regulations, the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006;
- Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Background Papers: Income Management and Services Cost Recovery Policy

Appendices: None

Reporting Officer: Eifion Evans
Chief Executive (and Returning Officer)

Date: 22nd November 2021