

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

9 FEBRUARY 2022

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### LOCAL ELECTION FEES – COUNTY BOROUGH AND TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of the election fees proposed to be applied for the County Borough and the Town and Community Councils election from May 2022 as set out in **Appendix 1**.

#### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Representation of the Peoples Act 1983 Section 36, provides that the County Borough Council shall pay all expenditure incurred by the Returning Officer in relation to County Borough and Town and Community Council elections and that expenditure incurred in relation to the Town and Community Council elections shall be recovered from the Town and Community Councils.
- 3.2 In accordance with established practice, funding has been set aside for the local elections, and an earmarked reserve is currently available to meet the costs of the County Borough elections in May 2022.

#### 4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The level of fees proposed for the Returning Officer and staff to be applied to all local elections and by-elections from May 2022 are attached at **Appendix 1**. The fees for staff have been linked to a specific pay point on the Council's pay scales so that fees can be adjusted in line with any annual pay awards in the future.
- 4.2 Additional administration costs are difficult to assess until the extent of contested elections is known, as this significantly impacts on the workload of the Electoral Services team. Additional payments to Electoral Staff during recent major elections have ranged from £2,000 to £4,000 depending upon specific roles and responsibilities. It is therefore proposed that the Returning Officer be granted

specific powers to determine the level of payments for additional administrative work once the election is complete.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

5.1 There is no direct effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. An Equality Impact screening assessment has been undertaken in the production of this report and identified that there are no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications**

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 As set out in paragraph 3.2, the costs associated with holding the forthcoming Borough Council elections in May 2022 will be met from an earmarked reserve.. The costs associated with the Town and Community Council elections will be recovered from those Town and Community Councils.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 Council approve the schedule of fees set out in **Appendix 1**; and

9.2 Delegate authority to the Returning Officer to determine the level of payments for additional administrative work in consultation with the Section 151 Officer.

Mark Shephard  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
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**Contact Officer:** Gary Ennis  
Group Manager Business Support

**Telephone:** (01656) 643609

**E-mail:** [gary.ennis@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:gary.ennis@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Postal address:** Elections Office  
Civic Offices  
Angel Street  
Bridgend  
CF31 4WB

**Background documents:** None