

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 5 NOVEMBER 2018

PART I DELEGATED

6. ALL-OUT ELECTIONS (Every Four Years) (CED)

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report was requested by the Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services following the motion tabled by Councillor Angela Killick and seconded by Councillor Alex Hayward at Council on 23 October 2018:

That this Council produce a paper setting out the estimated savings to be gained by moving to "All out elections" once every 4 years in respect of Three Rivers District Council, and that it also considers other possible concurrent elections.

2 Details

- 2.1 A complex and complicated task has been undertaken to provide an estimation of the financial savings were the Council to move to "all-out" district council elections every four years as opposed to the present electoral cycle by thirds.
- 2.2 Detailed information and savings calculations are provided in appendices as follows:

Appendix 1 – sets out the statutory scheduled electoral events taking place in Three Rivers up until 2030 to inform Members when future elections will occur either singularly or combined with other electoral events. This includes District, Parliamentary, Police & Crime Commissioner, Parish and County Council elections. It does not include European Parliamentary elections which have now ceased. It should be noted that electoral events can occur outside of the known ordinary election cycles.

Appendix 2 – details approximate calculations of costs and possible savings.

Part 1 – details current planned elections spending by year, and where combined with other elections savings that may be achieved. Total costs to the Council take into account expected reductions where costs are combined and reclaimed from other bodies i.e. central government and County.

Part 2 – details costs and savings based upon "all out" elections commencing from next May. In the example shown savings can be estimated at £86,000 over the initial 4-year period, an annual saving of around £21,500. Over a longer period of time for example up until 2030 savings could be achieved of £313,000.

- 2.3 The potential savings detailed above do not take account of the possible increase in by-elections which may occur in any 3-year period outside of all-out elections. A typical district by-election will cost in the region of £10,000 and should be factored into any potential overall savings gained.
- 2.4 The following have been included in calculating the cost of elections to the council:
- Hire of premises (including polling stations), printing and stationery (includes ballot papers), postage, staff payments and transport.

Please note that any losses relating to time lost for council staff working on elections day away from their ordinary day job have not been included in this analysis.

2.5 Additional costs will also be incurred in moving to this type of election cycle as a public consultation process will be required as stated in the legislation governing such a change (sec 32, Local Government & Public Involvement Health Act 2007). Typically an independent on-line consultation exercise will cost in the region of £10,000.

3. Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

3.1 None specific.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The Director of Finance and the finance team have been consulted on the preparation of this report and on the financial implications of any change, and will comment further dependent upon any formal changes proposed.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the Committee consider the motion submitted by Councillor Killick along with the schedule of estimated savings and instruct the Returning Officer on the next steps to be taken.

Report prepared by: Michael Summerville, Electoral Services Manager
on behalf of The Returning Officer

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: Statutory electoral events scheduled until 2030

Appendix 2: Estimated costs of scheduled elections until 2030.