

## RETURNING OFFICERS' FEES AND EXPENSES

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The fees and expenses for Returning Officers in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to conduct local elections are agreed annually by a working party of representatives of Hampshire County Council and other Local Authorities in the area. This practice (approved by the Council) ensures uniformity across councils and has been in place for many years. The scale of fees and expenses is published on this and other councils' websites. The current (2018/19) scale is available to view at <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=36054&p=0>

### 2. PAY POLICY STATEMENT AND ADJUSTMENTS IN FEES

- 2.1 The Council's Pay Policy Statement 2019/20, which is dealt with elsewhere on this agenda, provides for the Returning Officer's fees and expenses to be submitted to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee. Accordingly, the fees and expenses agreed by the county-wide Working Party for 2019/20 are attached, at Appendix 1, for the Committee's consideration.
- 2.2 In setting the fees, the Working Party has to be mindful of the Government's decision to increase the national living wage each year. It will rise to £8.21 for persons aged 25 or over with effect from 1 April 2019, and is expected to increase to £9 per hour from 2020. This Council's lowest hourly rate is currently £8.50, and it is being proposed (but still to be formally considered) that this rises to £9 per hour with effect from 1 April 2019. The fee proposed for a poll clerk for 2019/20 is marginally above £9/hour.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Costs of elections are borne by the body, or responsible authority for the body or individual, being elected. The revised fee scale for 2019/20 attached to this report should therefore apply to the quadrennial elections for District and Parish Councils on 2 May 2019. The application of the new fees at the May 2019 elections will increase the cost of the combined District and Parish elections in May 2019 by approximately £2,560.

### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none.

### 5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the fees and expenses for Returning Officers for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

**Further information:**  
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**Background Papers:**  
None