

## **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 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 (2016/17) scale is available to view at <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=30946&p=0>

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

- 2.1 The Council's Pay Policy Statement 2017/18, approved by the Council on 20 February 2017, provides for the Returning Officer's scale of 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 2017/18 are attached for the Committee's consideration.
- 2.2 In setting the fees for 2017/18, the Working Party had to be mindful of the Government's decision to increase the national living wage each year. It will rise from the current £7.20 per hour to £7.50 per hour with effect from 1 April 2017. The national minimum wage applies to persons employed at elections. The Working Party has therefore agreed increases in the pay rates to poll clerks and presiding officers.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Costs of elections are borne by the body, or responsible authority for the body or individual, being elected. The next quadrennial elections for the District and Parish Councils is not scheduled until 2019, so financial implications for the District Council would arise only in 2019, or earlier if a by-election is held. The increased costs at a by-election would amount to approximately £135 of a total of approximately £6,500. The increased costs at a quadrennial district/parish election would be approximately £4,250 of an estimated total of £200,000. Part of that cost would be borne by parish/town councils.

### **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 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

**Further information:**

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**Background Papers:**

Published documents