

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 (2017/18) scale is available to view at <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=33289&p=0>

2. PAY POLICY STATEMENT AND ADJUSTMENTS IN FEES

- 2.1 The Council's Pay Policy Statement 2018/19, approved by the Council on 26 February 2018, 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 2018/19 are attached 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 from the current £7.50 to £7.83 per hour with effect from 1 April 2018, an increase of approximately 4%.

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 scheduled for May 2019 (by which time it is expected that the national living wage would have risen again), but the effect of the increase in the national living wage for 2018/19 will be in the region on the cost of the District Council's elections in 2019 will be 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 2018/19, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

Further information:
Rosemary Rutins
Service Manager, Democratic Services &
Member Support
Tel: (023) 8028 5588
Email: rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk

Background Papers:
Published documents