

From: Ben Watts, County Returning Officer

To: Electoral & Boundary Review Committee, 29 March 2022

Subject: Adjustments made to 2021/22 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses under delegated authority

Status: Unrestricted

1. Introduction

- a) At its meeting on 18 March 2021, this Committee noted the uplift to the 2021/22 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses (KCC Scale of Fees) and approved an additional uplift of Item 17 of the Scale, it also approved a delegation to the County Returning Officer and Deputy County Returning Officer to make additional minor adjustments to the 2021/22 KCC Scale of Fees.
- b) It was recognised by the Committee that there may be costs related to COVID-19 and other matters which would require further minor adjustments to the 2021/22 KCC Scale of Fees, and that it may not be practical to call an additional meeting of the Committee to make any further adjustments.
- c) A commitment was made that any adjustments made under this delegation would be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.
- d) This report outlines the two minor adjustments to the 2021/22 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses made by the County Returning Officer on 19 May 2021 under delegated authority:
 - (i) In line with Cabinet Office guidance which confirmed that a standby fee for the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) election would be reimbursed for staff used to cover late notice absences due to COVID-19, an additional fee was added to the 2021/22 KCC Scale of Fees on the following basis:

“If a standby fee does not exceed £50 per member of staff - not including the cost of any training - KCC will reimburse the relevant percentage of such a retainer for the KCC election”
 - (ii) Item 28 on the 2021/22 KCC Scale of Fees, which is used to calculate a payment to the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) for the management and conduct of the election, was amended to enable the DRO to claim the maximum amount of £35.43 for each 1000 electors or part for the KCC election. The fee is usually required to be ‘shared equally with other elections, up to a maximum of £35.43’ but the DROs in their additional role as Local Returning Officers for this poll received a set fee for the management and conduct of the PCC election which made it not possible for the KCC fee to be ‘shared equally’ on this occasion. KCC and PCC elections are not usually combined but were in 2021 due to the postponement of the PCC election from 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Recommendation

The Electoral & Boundary Review Committee is asked to note the two minor adjustments made to the 2021/22 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses, relating to standby fees and DRO payment for the management and conduct of the KCC election, made by the County Returning Office on 19 May 2021 under delegated authority.

3. Background Documents

Electoral & Boundary Review Committee, 18 March 2021

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=8807&Ver=4>

4. Report Author and Relevant Director

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