

From: Ben Watts, County Returning Officer
To: Selection & Member Services Committee, 5 March 2025
Subject: 2026/27 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses
Status: Unrestricted

1. Introduction

- a) At its meeting on 8 March 2010, the Electoral & Boundary Review Committee agreed that it would annually authorise and approve the County Scale of Fees and Expenses for Kent County Council elections (KCC Scale of Fees).
- b) Following the transfer of functions from Electoral & Boundary Review Committee to the Selection & Member Services Committee, this Committee is now responsible for authorising and approving the KCC Scale of Fees as part of its remit in dealing with all matters delegated to it by full Council relating to KCC elections and the Council's electoral boundaries.
- c) Since 2024/25, KCC has adopted the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) pay banding system for election staff in its entirety except for Poll Clerks and Presiding Officer fees which are capped at the midpoint of the pay band for single elections. This is to safeguard against significant costs to KCC if all districts decided to implement the maximum amount payable for these roles in a single election. There is also a further exception to this, where the MHCLG fees include bookkeeping costs which KCC has previously taken the decision not to pay.
- d) The draft KCC Scale of Fees in Appendix 1 covers items not included in MHCLG's 2026/27 Pay Bands but included within the MHCLG's Expense Guidance. This arrangement has been in place since 2025/26.
- e) Appendix 2 contains the MHCLG's 2026/27 Pay Bands in its entirety which is updated annually to reflect changes to the national minimum wage and average public sector pay.
- f) All other costs listed in the 2026/27 KCC Scale of Fees are proposed to be reimbursed as actual costs or by a percentage increase relating to the Deputy Returning Officer Costs section. It is proposed that for the 2026/27 Scale of Fees, the Deputy Returning Officer Costs is updated by 3.8% based on the general increase to pay grades in the 2026/27 Kent Pay Scheme as agreed at Budget County Council on 12 February 2026.

2. Recommendation

The Selection & Member Services Committee is asked to approve the proposed County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses for 2026/27.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Proposed KCC Scale of Election Fees and Expenses 2026-27
- Appendix 2 – MCHLG's 2026/27 Pay Bands

Background Documents

County Council, 12 February 2026

[Agenda for County Council on Thursday, 12th February, 2026, 9.30 am](#)

Electoral & Boundary Review Committee, 8 March 2010

[Agenda for Electoral and Boundary Review Committee on Monday, 8th March, 2010, 1.00 pm](#)

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