

From: Ben Watts, County Returning Officer  
To: Electoral & Boundary Review Committee, x March 2023  
Subject: 2023/24 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses  
Status: Unrestricted

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## 1. Introduction

- a) At its meeting on 8 March 2010, this 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). This is consistent with the powers delegated to the Committee by County Council and recorded in the Appendix of the Constitution.
- b) Each year subsequently the KCC Scale of Fees has been uplifted annually using the average NJC pay award for local government. The 2021/22 and 2022/23 KCC Scale of Fees were an exception due to an absence of a Pay Award ahead of the Committee meeting to agree the KCC Scale of Fees.
- c) The proposed 2023/24 KCC Scale of Fees is attached in Appendix 1. The KCC Scale of Fees has a proposed uplift of 6.44% using the average equivalent percentage in the final 2023 NJC Pay Award offer.
- d) It is proposed that Items 13, 14, 15 & 16, which relate to Presiding Officers and Polling Station Inspectors, on the 2023/24 KCC Scale of Fees are additionally uplifted to the equivalent of a 10% increase from the 2022/23 figure to recognise their additional responsibilities relating to the new Voter ID requirements for upcoming elections.
- e) Further, there has historically been no distinction in the KCC Scale of Fees between Polling Station Inspectors working as part of a single or joint election as there has been for Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks. It is proposed that Item 16 is amended from 'Polling Station Inspector – for every 10 polling stations overseen' to 'Polling Station Inspector – single election' at £255.97 and a new Item 17 is inserted 'Polling Station Inspector – joint election' at 'Shared equally with other elections, up to a maximum of £157.23' to recognise the additional responsibilities when there are multiple elections. This mirrors the fee structure for Presiding Officers in Items 13 & 14 which are proposed to be uplifted by 10%.
- f) The KCC Scale of Fees will be kept under review, should there be any external factors which impact on Scale of Fees, the Committee will be updated.

## **2. Recommendation**

The Electoral & Boundary Review Committee is asked to approve the proposed County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses for 2023/24.

### **Background Documents**

Electoral & Boundary Review Committee, 8 March 2010

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=3230&Ver=4>

National Joint Council for Local Government Services (2023) '*Local Government Pay 2023 (08/03/2023)*', [Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority \(seemp.co.uk\)](#)

## **3. Report Author and Relevant Director**

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