

By: Ben Watts, County Returning Officer
To: Electoral and Boundary Review Committee – 18 March 2021
Subject: County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary This report asks the Committee to additionally uplift Item 17 in the 2021/22 County Scale of Fees and Expenses.

1. Introduction

- (1) On 22 January 2021, this Committee agreed to:
 - *“approve and delegate to the County Returning Officer the uplifting of the County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses for 2021/22 by the percentage pay increase, if any, awarded to most Kent Scheme staff as part of the agreed 2021/22 Budget of Kent County Council; and*
 - *authorise the Monitoring Officer to implement the uplift following the agreement of the Kent County Council budget for 2021/22.”*
- (2) At KCC’s Budget County Council meeting on 11 February 2021, Members approved:
 - *“The Personnel Committee recommendation of an increase of 2% for 2021- 22 for all Kent Scheme staff with the corresponding adjustment to pay scales (and noting the voluntary freeze for 2021-22 to Kent Range 17 and above offered by Corporate Directors and Directors)*
 - *The Personnel Committee recommendation to increase to the entry value of the lowest grade (KR2/3) to £9.55 per hour to maintain the position above the national minimum and marginally above the Living Wage Foundation for April 2021.”*
- (3) The 2021/22 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses has therefore been uplifted by a 2% increase as agreed by County Council.
- (4) However, in light of the County Council’s additional commitment to increase *“the entry value of the lowest grade (KR2/3) to £9.55 per hour to maintain the position above the national minimum and marginally above the Living Wage Foundation for April 2021”* it is proposed that Item 17 (For each Poll Clerk at the Polling Station) in the 2021/22 County Scale of Fees and Expenses is additionally uplifted from £152 to £152.80 to meet this commitment. The proposed County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses for 2021/22 is attached in Appendix 1.
- (5) In addition, it is expected that due to costs related to Covid-19 and other matters, there may be guidance issued which would require further minor

adjustments to the 2021/22 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses. As it may not be practical to call an additional meeting of this Committee to make further adjustments, the Committee is asked to consider delegating any additional minor adjustments to the County Returning Officer and Deputy County Returning Officer. Any adjustments made under delegation will be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.

- (6) The County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses covers the amount payable to District, City and Borough Councils by the County Council in return for their support in delivering the election. Given the complicated nature of these elections, it is important to confirm this key principle.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to:

- a) note the uplift to the 2021/22 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses;
- b) approve the additional uplift of Item 17 (For each Poll Clerk at the Polling Station) in the 2021/22 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses for 2021/22 in order to meet the County Council's commitment to increase the entry value of the lowest grade (KR2/3) to £9.55 per hour to maintain the position above the national minimum and marginally above the Living Wage Foundation for April 2021; and
- c) delegate to the County Returning Officer and Deputy County Returning Officer additional minor adjustments to the 2021/22 County Scale of Election Fees and Expenses.

Appendix

Proposed County Scale of Fees and Expenses 2021/22.

Background Documents

Kent County Council (2021) '*Electoral & Boundary Review Committee (22/01/21)*';

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=8730&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2021) '*Budget County Council (11/02/21)*';

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=113&MId=8460&Ver=4>

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