



Douglas Borough Council

Committee Report

REPORT TO	
Executive Committee	
DATE OF MEETING	
Thursday, 24 th November, 2022	
REPORTING OFFICER	
Director of Finance and Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services)	
SUBJECT	
Local Authority Fees Order update	
1	REASON FOR REPORT
	Consultation Document published by the Cabinet Office
2	RECOMMENDATION
	<p>That;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the consultation be noted;2. That the responses to the individual questions contained in the consultation, as set out in Appendix A hereto, be submitted as the Council's response.
3	FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED
	No further approval required.
4	SUPPORTING RATIONALE
	<p>The Consultation Document was published on 7th November 2022, with a closing date of 21st December 2022. The purpose of the consultation is to obtain views in relation to Local Authority Fees Order proposals. The introduction of the Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) Act 2020 and the Elections (Local Authorities) Regulations 2022 require the Local Elections (Fees) Order to be reinstated.</p> <p>The consultation working group, consisting of the Vice-Chairs of the Executive and Standing Committees were asked to consider the Consultation and responses. The Chief Executive and Director of Finance drafted suggested responses to the questions for circulation.</p> <p>The draft answers, have been appended to the report.</p>

5	ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT RECOMMENDED
	<p>Consideration was given to increasing Local Election Fees in line with PSC Pay Awards as an alternative and to apply a percentage increase to the fees that is equivalent to the consolidated PSC pay award increases in the period since February 2020, when the last Local Elections (Fees Order) was approved.</p> <p>Staff pay awards do not tend to match RPI or CPI inflationary increases, therefore it can be considered inconsistent to apply a CPI or RPI increase to these fees.</p> <p>If the consolidated PSC pay awards were to be applied to the fees increase, the result would be as follows:</p> <p>2020/21 increase – 2.75% 2021/22 increase – 1% 2022/23 increase – 6%</p> <p>Consolidated increase – 10.0%</p> <p>This is significantly lower than the 15.2% recommended by the Cabinet Office under Option 5, but much closer to Option 4 (9.8%).</p> <p>If the Cabinet Office deems an increase commensurate with the PSC percentage increases as inappropriate due to lack of precedent (this is not listed as an available option), then it can be argued that Option 4 (9.8%) is the most appropriate.</p> <p>Not recommended based on the rationale in Appendix A.</p>
6	IF PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL, DATE AND DECISION
	<p>The previous Local Elections (Fees) Order was last brought forward by the Department of Infrastructure and approved by Tynwald in February 2020. As part of the process of updating the elections legislation the Fees Order relating to House of Keys elections was last reviewed and updated in 2021.</p>
7	CAPITAL COST AND FUNDING SOURCE
	Not applicable.
8	CHANGES TO REVENUE ESTIMATES AND FUNDING SOURCE
	As the Council will be required to fund any increased fees required by the Local Elections (Fees) Order 2023 there is an impact on salaries and ratepayers.
9	STAFFING/HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS
	None identified.
10	LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
	None identified.
11	EQUALITY ACT COMPLIANCE
	Not applicable.

12	COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE PLAN
	Not applicable.
13	BUSINESS RISK IMPLICATIONS
	None identified.
14	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
	None identified.
15	IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (of the Borough or Island)
	None identified.
16	CROSS-DEPARTMENTAL ISSUES
	None identified.
17	APPENDICES
	Appendix A: Proposed responses to the current legislation; Appendix B: The consultation document issued by the Cabinet Office.
18	REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
	None identified.

REPORTING OFFICER	Director of Finance and Assistant Chief Officer (Democratic Services)
RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER	Chief Executive and Town Clerk
DATE	10th November 2022