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<b>PART A:</b>	<b>MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS</b>
<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>15 MARCH 2018</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE:</b>	<b>RESOURCES AND ENABLING SERVICES LEAD (S151) PETER JOHNSON</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>PARISH ELECTION RECHARGES</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to consult with Parish Councils regarding the introduction of recharges for Parish Council elections from 2023.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That the Policy and Resources Committee approve consultation with Parish Councils regarding the introduction of recharges for scheduled Parish Council elections from 2023 based on:

- a) For contested elections, a rate per elector of £2;
- b) For uncontested elections, a flat fee of £50;
- c) For grouped parishes, this would be charged per parish;
- d) For warded parishes, this would be charged per ward;

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 To reimburse the District Council for the costs and time involved in running the Parish Council elections.

### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

- 4.1 There are no significant risks associated with undertaking a consultation exercise and, as advanced notice would be given of the introduction of charges, there are no significant risks associated with fees proposed.

### **5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 This report relates to the One Ryedale corporate priority, through seeking to optimise

income and anticipating further savings required.

## **REPORT**

### **6.0 REPORT DETAILS**

- 6.1 Currently Ryedale District Council recharges full costs to parish councils for running parish by-elections and parish polls. However the costs of the scheduled “all out” parish elections that coincide with the District Council elections every 4 years are not recharged.
- 6.2 90 separate parish elections are run at this point in the 4 year cycle. This figure includes elections for wards which make up a particular parish or town and elections for parishes which are grouped under one parish council. Whilst a lot of these elections are usually uncontested, there is still a lot work involved in dealing with the nominations, as well as issue of three statutory notices. If there was an average of 5 nominations for each of these elections, then that makes a total of 450 nominations to be checked, input and validated (on top of those for the 30 District seats). Given that each nomination takes 15 minutes to deal with on average, this works out at 112.5 hours of work.
- 6.3 City of York and Harrogate Borough Councils do not recharge parish election costs. Selby, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Craven District Councils do recharge and Scarborough Borough Council is intending to introduce recharging in 2019.
- 6.4 Parish councils have previously commented at Parish Liaison Meetings that if a recharge was to be introduced for elections, they would like advanced notice so that they could adjust their precept if required.
- 6.5 Given the continuing pressures on the Council’s budget, it is proposed that recharging is introduced from the 2023 scheduled elections, to allow Parish Councils time to deal with any budgetary implications over a number of years.
- 6.6 It is not feasible to work out the actual costs of running the election for each parish, with invoices and payments not including that level of detail, and there would be a risk of making an industry out this exercise, such that it costs more in time than it raises in income.
- 6.7 The recommendation therefore is to introduce a rate per elector for contested elections and a flat fee for uncontested elections. Having done some workings using estimated costs for a parish election for 200 electors, combined with a District election, the recommended rate per elector would be £2 and the recommended flat fee would be £50. For grouped parishes, this would be charged per parish and for warded parishes, per ward, as these constitute separate elections, with candidates having to stand for a particular parish under a grouped parish council or a particular ward in a warded parish.
- 6.8 The current practice of recharging full costs for parish by-elections and parish polls will continue.
- 6.9 Members are asked to approve a consultation exercise with Parish Councils on this proposal.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial  
The proposals in the report support the financial aims of the Council.
  
- b) Legal  
There are no legal implications.
  
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)  
None.

**Peter Johnson**  
**Resources and Enabling Services Lead (s151)**

**Author:** Simon Copley, Principal Specialist - Democracy  
**Telephone No:** 01653 600666 ext: 277  
**E-Mail Address:** [simon.copley@ryedale.gov.uk](mailto:simon.copley@ryedale.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**  
None

**Background Papers are available for inspection at:**  
N/a