

A meeting of the **ELECTIONS PANEL** will be held in **IN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MEETING ROOM, CASTLE HILL HOUSE, ST. MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2009** at **4:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

APOLOGIES

**Contact
(01480)**

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th August 2008.

**Mrs L Jablonska
388004**

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in addition to any Agenda Item. Please see Notes 1 and 2 below.

3. ELECTORAL CYCLE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE (Pages 3 - 16)

To consider a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services on the outcome of an internal consultation exercise on the Council's future electoral arrangements.

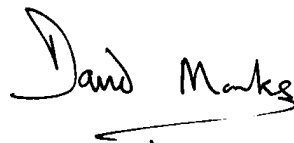
**Mrs L Jablonska
388004**

4. PARISH ELECTORAL REVIEW - UPDATE

To receive a verbal update on the parish electoral review of the District.

**Mrs L Jablonska
388004**

Dated this 17th day of March 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Mankie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chief Executive

Notes

1. *A personal interest exists where a decision on a matter would affect to a greater extent than other people in the District –*
 - (a) *the well-being, financial position, employment or business of the Councillor, their family or any person with whom they had a close association;*
 - (b) *a body employing those persons, any firm in which they are a partner and any company of which they are directors;*
 - (c) *any corporate body in which those persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or*
 - (d) *the Councillor's registerable financial and other interests.*
2. *A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would reasonably regard the Member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.*

Please contact Mrs L Jablonska, Central Services Manager, Tel No 01480 388004/e-mail: Lisa.Jablonska@huntsdc.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

[Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) (under Councils and Democracy).

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

Agenda Item 1

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the ELECTIONS PANEL held in Meeting Room 1, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon on Wednesday, 27 August 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor D Harty – Chairman.
Councillors J E Garner, A N Gilbert,
M F Newman and G S E Thorpe.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors P J Downes and T D Sanderson.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 14th May 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

7. ELECTORAL CYCLE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

By way of a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel were acquainted with recent legislative changes that would enable the Council to alter its electoral cycle. Currently the Council undertook elections for a third of its Members each year followed by a fallow year when no District elections were held. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 had made it possible to move to whole Council elections and, should the need arise, to revert to elections by thirds. Having noted the procedure that would need to be followed should a change in the electoral cycle need to be made, the implications of a change for town and parish councils, the likely financial implications and other consequential considerations, Members were informed that, if the Council decided to move to whole Council elections, it would need to pass a resolution to that effect by the end of 2010.

Before coming to a view on whether the Council should change its electoral cycle, the Panel requested that Members were consulted on what would be suitable electoral arrangements for the Council and that the outcome of that consultation was reported to a future meeting.

8. REVIEW OF PARISH ARRANGEMENTS IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

The Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which contained an update on progress of implementation of recommendations made following the conclusion of the review of parish arrangements in

Huntingdonshire. Following approval by the Council at its meeting on 20th February 2008 of a series of recommendations for changes to parish electoral arrangements, the necessary Orders had been made, which brought these changes into effect. Copies of the Orders had been sent to the councils affected and to various other bodies prescribed in legislation.

At the time the review was completed the Council did not have the powers under the legislation then in force to implement a significant number of its recommendations. Consequently these had to be submitted to the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to act upon. The situation changed when the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 came into force and the Council now was responsible for implementing this kind of change. However, under the associated transitional arrangements, on this occasion, the Department of Communities and Local Government had undertaken to implement the recommendations. Once this process had been completed the Council would be responsible for taking resulting consequential actions. There was expected to be a small number of other minor boundary changes that the Electoral Commission would have to make. The Panel requested that those parishes affected by the recommendations were informed of progress.

Chairman

ELECTORAL CYCLE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE (Report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Panel of the outcome of an internal consultation exercise on the Council's future electoral arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Panel held on 27th August 2008, Members were informed of legislative changes introduced by the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007 enabling the Council to resolve to change its electoral cycle at certain fixed periods of time and to implement certain consequential changes. A copy of that report is attached for ease of reference.
- 2.2 Members were acquainted with details of an opportunity available to the District Council to move from elections by thirds to whole Council elections and the associated financial implications of such a move.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Arising from the last meeting of the Panel, Members agreed that an initial consultation exercise be undertaken with District Councillors in order to establish their views as to whether the Council should continue to hold elections by thirds, where elections for one third of District Council seats are held three years out of every four, or move to whole Council elections every four years. The Panel also requested that Members' views be sought on any other suggestions on the Council's electoral arrangements.
- 3.2 Few responses were received from Members but the consensus of opinion was to make no change to the existing electoral arrangements. No further suggestions were made for any other change to the Council's electoral arrangements.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As part of the exercise to identify savings in 2006, the Council agreed to include whole council elections in the schedule of reductions in expenditure.
- 4.2 If the Panel is minded to make no change to the existing electoral arrangements, it will be necessary for provision to be made in future budgets to accommodate the status quo.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Having regard to the comments received by Members following an initial consultation on changes to the Council's electoral arrangements, the Panel are invited
- (a) to consider whether to change the existing electoral arrangements or if the status quo is retained, to continue to hold elections by thirds; and
 - (b) recommend that the Cabinet and Council make the necessary budgetary variation in the forthcoming Medium Term Plan to meet the associated costs of continuing to hold elections by thirds.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
Minutes and Report of the meeting of the Elections Panel - 27th August 2008.

Contact Officer: Lisa Jablonska, Central Services Manager ☎ 01480 388004.

ELECTIONS PANEL

27TH AUGUST 2008

ELECTORAL CYCLE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

(Report by Head of Administration)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has undertaken elections by thirds since its inception in 1974. It has been possible since for the Council to pass a resolution to ask the Secretary of State to make an order to change the system to whole council elections and vice versa, subject to an interval of not less than 10 years between requests. Legislative change introduced by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables the Council to resolve to change its electoral cycle at certain fixed periods of time and to implement certain consequential changes.

2. CHOICE

- 2.1 Non-metropolitan district councils have the choice of elections by whole council or by halves or thirds of their membership. Huntingdonshire historically has elected by thirds with one fallow year when no district election is held which is the year of the county council election.
- 2.2 The summary position in England is –

Authority type	Thirds	Halves	Whole	Total
County Council	-	-	34	34
District/bor. council	82	7	149	238
Unitary council	19	-	27	46
London borough	-	-	33	33
Metropolitan borough	36	-	-	36
Parish/town councils	-	-	8,700	8,700

3. NEW PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, districts that historically elected by thirds can move to whole council elections and can revert back to thirds. Other authorities that have whole council elections now cannot move to thirds. The same situation pertains to authorities that historically elected by halves. However authorities cannot move from thirds to halves and vice versa.
- 3.2 If an authority wishes to move from thirds to whole council elections, it must
- ◆ consult such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change,
 - ◆ convene a special meeting of the Council,

- ◆ pass a resolution to change by a two thirds majority of those voting,
 - ◆ publish an explanatory document on the decision and make this available for public inspection, and
 - ◆ give notice to the Electoral Commission.
- 3.3 The authority may also request the Commission to give the Boundary Committee a direction to undertake a review of the authority's area with a view to establishing single member wards, where it considers this to be appropriate.
- 3.4 An authority that elected by thirds and has moved to whole council elections may return to elections by thirds. To do so, it must carry out the same procedure as set out in paragraph 3.2, except that the Commission must make an order to that effect and, before doing so, must consider whether to direct the Boundary Committee to carry out a review of the district in question. That review would look at the division of the district into wards with a view to the desirability of establishing three member wards.

4. TIMESCALES

- 4.1 There is a 'permitted resolution period' for authorities that wish to change their electoral cycle. In the case of Huntingdonshire, a resolution must be passed no later than 31st December 2010. The whole council election would then be held in May 2011. The next opportunity to change will be between the annual meeting in May 2014 and 31st December of that year and then during the same interval every fourth year thereafter. If a resolution were to be passed at any time in those permitted resolution periods, the first whole council elections would take place in 2015 and each fourth year thereafter.
- 4.2 If the authority moved to whole council elections and then wished to move back to thirds, the permitted resolution period is between the annual meeting in May 2012 and 31st December 2012 and every fourth year thereafter. The first election by thirds would happen in the year after the Electoral Commission made the order, except that 2013 and every fourth year thereafter would be a fallow year when no district election would take place. The likelihood is that the cycle of elections would be 2015, 2016, 2018, etc.

5. PARISH COUNCILS

- 5.1 Currently, town and parish council elections in Huntingdonshire coincide with the district election for the ward in which they are located. Roughly one third of the towns and parishes therefore have elections in any year except in the year of county council elections. A schedule showing the dates of elections to the various town and parish councils in the District is shown in Annex 1. The cost of a contested election is shared between the Council and the relevant town or parish, where possible.
- 5.2 If the Council resolve to move to whole council elections in 2011 and every fourth year thereafter, those towns and parishes with elections

that fall in the two years in the cycle when there will no longer be district council elections would have to meet the whole of the cost of their individual elections. Similarly, the District Council itself would have to meet the whole of the cost of its own election in those wards where no town or parish council is held.

- 5.3 Although contested town/parish council elections have become increasingly rare in recent years, other than in the towns of Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots, a contested election is currently a prerequisite for those councils which are quality parishes to retain their status and the transfer of additional powers and responsibilities to towns and parishes recently may encourage more individuals to stand as candidates.
- 5.4 The 2007 Act enables the Council to make an order to alter the years of the ordinary election of towns and parishes so that they coincide with a move by a district council to elections by whole council or a reversion to elections by thirds. The order can make transitional provision for the retirement of town and parish councillors at different times than would otherwise apply during that transitional period.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A move to whole council elections will clearly lead to a financial saving for the Council. As part of the exercise to identify savings in 2006, the Council has already agreed to include whole council elections in the schedule of cuts to services. However the saving will not equate to the whole of the cost of an election in two of the three years of the current cycle.
- 6.2 Currently, the District is divided into 29 wards. Although elections are by thirds, only 4 wards comprise 3 councillors. 15 have two councillors and 10 are single councillor wards. This results from the need to achieve electoral parity of an equal number of electors per councillor with the most recent periodic electoral review only succeeding to create 3 member wards in Eynesbury, Huntingdon East, Ramsey, and Yaxley and Farcet. In very few wards therefore is an election held each year.
- 6.3 Although the electoral split between wards is equal at the moment with 17 wards having elections in two out of three years and 18 wards in the third year, the cost of an election varies with the number of polling stations per ward. This varies from a minimum of 1 station per ward up to a maximum of 11. The current electoral cycle of 63, 73 and 54 stations in each of its three years (as shown in Annex 2) directly affects the cost of the annual election in each of those years.
- 6.4 A move to whole council elections would result in all 106 polling stations being required in each election, representing an increase of 45% compared with the busiest year currently. Similarly all 29 wards would have elections, an increase of 61% on the current position. It is likely therefore that the direct cost of a whole council election would be some 50% higher than in the most expensive of the three current years of the cycle with a saving in the other two years. By-

elections also would be more frequent because these could no longer be organised to coincide with annual elections.

- 6.5 Based upon current figures, it is estimated that a saving of approximately £100,000 could be achieved across a four year cycle. However this will vary depending upon the number of contested town and parish council elections that are held. Parliamentary elections have also coincided with district elections in recent years which has enabled costs to be shared, most recently in 2005. A whole council election in 2011 would be out of sequence with general elections and they would be unlikely to coincide for the foreseeable future. Finally the cost would be influenced by the creation of more single member wards.

7. BOUNDARY REVIEW

- 7.1 If the Council considers moving to whole council elections, it will need to decide whether to ask the Commission to implement a boundary review. Ideally, councils where elections are by thirds have three member wards and those with whole council elections have single member wards. The latter tends to focus on the performance of an individual councillor as the representative/champion of his or her ward as opposed to the situation in a multi-member ward. As mentioned above, the last periodic electoral review of the District resulted in a predominance of two member wards to achieve electoral parity. Because of the geographical composition of Huntingdonshire, it is unlikely that single member wards can be created throughout the District without resulting in some unusual ward configurations. Conversely, this would present an opportunity to redress some of the more contrived ward structures that arose from the last review.

- 7.2 A move to all single member wards clearly would generate 52 wards, unless the size of the council changed, with the probability of additional polling stations being required. This could add up to £50,000 to the cost of an election, halving the saving over the electoral cycle.

8. RELATIVE MERITS

- 8.1 A series of arguments can be advanced for the merits and disadvantages of whole council elections and elections by thirds. The Electoral Commission carried out a consultation exercise at the request of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2003 and recommended that authorities move to whole council elections. Conversely the Government had only a few years earlier advocated annual elections as a way of stimulating public interest in local democracy.

- 8.2 A summary of the various merits and disadvantages of the two systems are contained in the attached Annex 3.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The recent legislative change encourages authorities to move towards whole council elections. Those currently electing by thirds or

halves can move to whole council elections but those operating the latter system at the time when the Act was passed now cannot change.

- 9.2 The merits of elections by thirds and by whole council are equally balanced but the financial saving is not as great as may be first envisaged, especially if a review is requested which implements single member wards and an opportunity to share costs with a general election is lost. It also would mean that a third of the membership of the Council who were elected in 2010 would have to stand for re-election again in 2011 and those elected in the most recent election in May 2008 only serving three of their four year term of office. A similar situation pertained after the last periodic electoral review which changed ward boundaries.
- 9.3 Any decision on the part of the Council would inevitably require the electoral arrangements of the towns and parishes in Huntingdonshire to change to bring their individual years of election into line with that of the District. Depending upon the transitional arrangements that the Council included in the order, this could mean either a shorter or longer period of office for the councillors affected.
- 9.4 Before a special meeting of the Council could be held to consider a resolution for change, it would be necessary to consult with appropriate bodies which could include existing councillors, the political parties, town and parish councils and others. If the Panel is minded to consider a move to whole council elections, it may wish to review the outcome of that consultation before submitting proposals to a special meeting of the Council.

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 The Panel is asked to consider a move to whole council elections before the current deadline of the end of December 2010 and the consequential implications for the Council, individual councillors and town and parish councils.
- 10.2 In the event of the Panel favouring whole council elections, it is also invited to consider -
- ◆ the implementation of a consultation process with interested parties and the determination of whom to consult;
 - ◆ preliminary consideration as to whether to ask the Electoral Commission to direct the Boundary Committee to carry out a review of the District with a view to the creation of single member wards; and
 - ◆ the consequential implications for town and parish councils, the making of an order to change the year of election for a majority of those councils and any transitional arrangements arising therefrom.

Contact Person: Roy Reeves, Head of Administration
☎ 01480 388003

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Polling arrangements for County, District and Parish Councils in Huntingdonshire.

ELECTORAL CYCLE

Number of Polling Stations per Ward

WARD	Number of seats	Number of Polling Stations per Ward												Number of Polling Stations				
		COUNTY		DISTRICT		COUNTY		DISTRICT		COUNTY		DISTRICT						
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020					
Alconbury & The Stukeleys	1		4								4				4			4
Brampton	2		4		4					4					4			4
Buckden	1		3							3					3			3
Earith	2		3	3						3	3				3	3		3
Ellington	1			11							11					11		11
Elton & Folksworth	1			5							5					5		5
Fennstanton	1			1							1					1		1
Godmanchester	2		2		2					2		2				2		2
Gransden & The Offords	2		7	7						7	7				7	7		7
The Hemingfords	2		4		4					4		4			4			4
Huntingdon (East)	3		4	4	4					4	4	4			4	4		4
Huntingdon (North)	2			2	2						2	2			2	2		2
Huntingdon (West)	2		3	3						3	3				3	3		3
Kimbolton & Staughton	1			5								5				5		5
Little Paxton	1				1							1						1
Ramsey	3		6	6	6					6	6	6			6	6		6
Sawtry	2		7		7					7		7			7			7
Somersham	2			6	6						6	6				6	6	6
Stilton	1			2								2				2		2
St Ives West	1				1							1						1
St Ives South	2		2		2					2		2			2			2
St Ives East	2		2		2					2		2			2			2
St Neots Eaton Ford	2			2	2						2	2				2	2	2
St Neots Eaton Socon	2			2	2						2	2				2	2	2
St Neots Eynesbury	3		3	3	3					3	3	3			3	3	3	3
St Neots Priory Park	2		3	3						3	3				3	3		3
Upwood & The Raveleys	1			5								5						5
Warboys & Bury	2		3		3					3		3			3			3
Yaxley & Farcet	3		3	3	3					3	3	3			3	3		3
	52		63	73	54					63	73	54			63	73	54	106

Number of Wards

29

Number of 3 Member Wards

4

Number of 2 Member Wards

15

Number of 1 Member Wards

10

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CYCLE OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE
(Including Wards of Towns and Parishes, where appropriate)

2010	2011	2012
Alconbury	Abbotsley	Brampton
Alconbury Weston	Abbots Ripton	Broughton
Alwalton	Barham & Woolley	Conington
Buckden	Bluntisham	Glatton
Bury	Brington & Molesworth	Godmanchester
Elton	Buckworth	Great & Little Gidding
Farcet	Bythorn & Keyston	Hemingford Abbots
Folksworth & Washingley	Catworth	Hilton
Great Paxton	Colne	Little Paxton
Hemingford Grey	Earith	Old Hurst
Houghton & Wyton (Airfield Ward)	Easton	Pidley-cum-Fenton
Houghton & Wyton (Houghton & Wyton Ward)	Ellington	Sawtry
Offord Cluny	Eynesbury Hardwicke (Town Ward)	St Ives (East Ward)
Offord D'Arcy	Eynesbury Hardwicke (Spinney Ward)	St Ives (South Ward)
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	Fenstanton	St Ives (West Ward)
Southoe & Midloe	Grafham	Warboys
The Stukeleys (Hinchingsbrooke Ward)	Great Gransden	Woodhurst
The Stukeleys (The Stukeleys Ward)	Great Staughton	
Toseland	Hail Weston	
Upton & Coppingford	Holme	
Wistow	Huntingdon (East Ward)	
Yelling	Huntingdon (North Ward)	
	Huntingdon (West Ward)	
	Holywell-cum-Needingworth	
	Kimbolton & Stoneley	
	Kings Ripton	
	Leighton Bromswold	
	Old Weston	
	Perry	
	Ramsey	
	St Neots (Eaton Ford Ward)	
	St Neots (Eaton Socon Ward)	
	St Neots (Eynesbury Ward)	
	St Neots (Priory Park Ward)	
	St Neots Rural	
	Somersham	
	Spaldwick	
	Stilton	
	Stow Longa	
	Tilbrook	
	Upwood & The Raveleys	
	Waresley	
	Woodwalton	
	Yaxley	

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SUMMARY OF MERITS AND DISADVANTAGES OF WHOLE COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND ELECTIONS BY THIRDS

Merits of elections by thirds

- ◆ Encourages people into the habit of voting in May every year
- ◆ A Council is judged on its performance annually, rather than every 4 years
- ◆ The electorate can react more quickly to local circumstances and Council decisions
- ◆ The Council better reflects public opinion locally
- ◆ Political parties have fewer candidates to find at any one time
- ◆ There are more frequent opportunities for potential candidates to stand
- ◆ Easier to assimilate newly elected Members as numbers are less
- ◆ Disruption to ongoing policies etc. is less significant
- ◆ Elections staff maintain their expertise because of frequency of elections
- ◆ Counts are easier to organise for a single councillor per ward
- ◆ Less likely for local situation to be influenced by national situation politically (i.e. whole council election can be heavily influenced by low point in party fortunes nationally)
- ◆ More difficult to change political balance of authority (although can change more frequently if evenly balanced politically)
- ◆ Creates greater continuity/stability
- ◆ Less likely that controversial decisions will be delayed because of election
- ◆ Easier to organise parish elections if contested
- ◆ With the trend towards parliamentary election on same day as local election, result less likely to be influenced by voting on national issues
- ◆ Rising 18 year olds do not have to wait so long before they can vote
- ◆ In moving to whole council elections, some councillors will only serve one year before having to stand again for election
- ◆ If town and parish elections continue to be combined with district elections, the same situation will apply to parishes where, depending upon the existing cycle, the whole council would have to stand again for re-election
- ◆ More difficult to manage whole council and all town/parish councils elections on same day
- ◆ With propensity for parliamentary election to be held on same day as district election, very difficult to manage parliamentary, whole district and town/parish councils on same day
- ◆ Less likelihood for intermittent by-elections as these tend to be held, where possible, on the date when the election by thirds is being held
- ◆ More difficult to revert to election by thirds if Members dislike whole council elections
- ◆ More difficult for towns and parishes to change periodic cycle if Council reverts back to thirds

- ◆ While towns and parishes could remain on existing cycle, costs would increase as these are shared currently on combined elections.

Merits of elections by whole council

- ◆ A council has a clear mandate from the electorate for 4 years
- ◆ An elector can vote for the whole council as well as a councillor
- ◆ Creates greater stability over the 4 year period with no chance (subject to by-elections) of a change in political control
- ◆ Greater propensity for change in political control
- ◆ Avoids situation where political control of council can change in election by thirds but some electors in single member wards have no opportunity to vote
- ◆ Whole electorate votes together, compared to some who only vote once or twice in the three yearly cycle in one or two member wards respectively
- ◆ Greater publicity for whole council election may generate higher turnout
- ◆ Evidence suggests (according to Electoral Commission) that slightly higher turn out in whole council elections
- ◆ Evidence suggests (according to Electoral Commission) that electorate associates more clearly with whole council election rather than dates when thirds
- ◆ Reduced expenditure for Council
- ◆ Reduced expenditure by political parties because less elections
- ◆ Less disruptive for staff
- ◆ Induction training required less frequently
- ◆ Less campaigning needed by parties (two fallow years in four)
- ◆ Problem with publicity purdah only occurs once every four years.

Clearly some arguments can be used both for and against whole council elections or elections by thirds.