
Elections Panel

Report of the meeting held on 25th March 2009

Matters for Decision

3. ELECTORAL CYCLE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Further to Item No. 1 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 24th September 2008, the Panel has considered further the outcome of an internal consultation exercise undertaken with District Council Members on the Council's future electoral arrangements. At their last meeting Members were acquainted with details of an opportunity available to the District Council to move elections by thirds to whole Council elections and the associated financial implications of such a move.

Following consultation undertaken with District Council Members on potential changes to the electoral arrangements, the Panel has been advised that arising from the responses received the consensus of opinion was to make no change to the existing electoral arrangements.

Having discussed the relative merits and disadvantages of elections by thirds and by whole council, the Panel has agreed that no change will be made to the existing electoral arrangements but have asked that an investigation be undertaken via the Department for Communities and Local Government as to whether elections for the multi-member wards could be held on the same day every four years.

Having noted the associated budgetary implications of making no change to the existing arrangements, the Panel

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.

Matters for Information

4. PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW - UPDATE

The Panel has received an update on progress of implementation of recommendations made following the conclusion of the review of parish arrangements in Huntingdonshire.

The Council has received a copy of a draft Huntingdonshire (Parishes) Order 2009 and following feedback to the Department for Communities and Local Government on its content, in particular the effective date of the Order, the Council is still awaiting details of its confirmation.

D Harty
Chairman