

REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL CYCLE: SCOPING REPORT

SUMMARY

- 1.1 In January, Council asked Scrutiny Management Commission (SMC) to conduct a review of the electoral cycle. Responsibility for overview and scrutiny of this issue has now transferred to the Resources and Governance Board. This scoping report provides a draft of the criteria to be used for the review of the electoral cycle.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider and agree the process for review of the electoral cycle.
- 2.2 To consider and adopt the following criteria to guide the review:
- Cost comparison between election-by-thirds and four-yearly elections
 - Impact on administration of elections
 - Impact on long term policy decisions of the council
 - Voter participation
 - Impact on political parties and candidates
 - Impact on the well being of the city

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Adopting a process with clear, agreed criteria will assist the Board in conducting an objective review of the electoral cycle. It will enable the Board to focus on the key issues, identify appropriate individuals to give evidence and ask the right questions of the witnesses.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 SMC was asked by Council in January 2012 to undertake a review of the electoral cycle. The remit now rests with the Resources and Governance Board.
- 4.2 SMC previously carried out reviews on the electoral process. In 2006/7, SMC

conducted a review to identify ways to increase electoral registration in Derby. This was followed up with a review on the effect of the electoral cycle on voter turnout. Both reviews gathered detailed evidence but due to lack of appetite for political change decided not make formal recommendations on the future electoral cycle.

- 4.3 There is now the opportunity to conduct an objective review of the impact of the electoral cycle on the council's political decision making and consider which process would best serve the people of Derby.
- 4.4 The Localism Act 2011 has removed the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 on a permitted period and thus enabling authorities to conduct a review at any time in the year. However, it is suggested that the board should aim to complete this review by the end of 2012 and present its findings to Council in January.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Stuart Leslie
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	N/A
Other(s)	Phil O'Brien – Statutory Scrutiny Officer

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising directly from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 Section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000 requires that the power of an overview and scrutiny committee to review or scrutinise a decision made but not implemented, includes power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Our aim is to work together so that Derby and its people will enjoy a thriving sustainable economy, good health and well-being and an active cultural life.