

# ITEM 8



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 18 SEPTEMBER 2007

Report of the Corporate Director Corporate and Adult Services

### Draft Topic Review Report on the Effect of Electoral Cycles on Voter Turnout

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Commission determine whether they wish to approve the draft report.
2. That if the Commission approves the draft report they then consider whether a possible increase in voter turnout and a potential cost saving are significant enough to merit a proposal to Council to change the electoral cycle at Derby.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 In 2006/07 the Scrutiny Management Commission (SMC) conducted a review which aimed at identify ways to increase electoral registration in Derby. The Commission made several recommendations regarding the election processes at Derby City Council.
- 2.2 As a logical extension of that review the Commission decided to hold a further review to examine the effect a local authority's election cycle had on levels of voter turnout.
- 2.3 The draft topic review outlines the research carried out and the results and asks the Commission to decide whether or not they want to suggest a recommendation to Council regarding a change in the electoral cycle at Derby City Council.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	Electoral Commission Review 2003: Cycle of local government elections in England Electoral Commission Recommendations 2004: Cycle of local government elections in England Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Draft SMC Topic Review into the Effect of Electoral Cycles on Voter Turnout

## Appendix 1

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Financial

1. There would be cost implications of a change to the Electoral Cycle at Derby City Council with a potential cost saving of around £362,000.

#### Legal

- 2.1 The conduct of elections is covered by a number of pieces of legislation and supported by regulations and guidance on these from the Electoral Commission.
- 2.2 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill proposes to enable some Councils to change their electoral cycle from elections by thirds to whole council elections.

#### Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

#### Equalities impact

4. This will be of benefit to all Derby people in improving Electoral Processes.

#### Corporate Objectives

5. This report has the potential to link with the following Corporate Objectives,
  - Giving Excellent Services and Value for Money
  - Making us Proud of our Neighbourhoods