

ITEM 11



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 23 OCTOBER 2007

Report of the Corporate Director Corporate and Adult Services

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

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Commission 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 A copy of the draft Topic Review was approved at the Commissions meeting on 18 September 2007.
- 2.4 The 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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Background papers: 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 2006-07

List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 – Draft SMC Topic Review into the Effect of Electoral Cycles on Voter Turnout

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