

## **REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL CYCLE**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 At the last meeting of this Board members agreed the criteria to be used to guide the review of the Electoral Cycle. This report suggests a list of witnesses members may wish to invite to give evidence and an indicative timetable for completion of the review. The reports also asks the Board whether it wishes to establish a sub group to conduct the review.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To consider and agree potential witnesses who could be invited to give evidence to this review.
- 2.2 To set a timetable for completion of the review.
- 2.3 To consider establishing a sub group to collate evidence.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Scrutiny is an evident based process and therefore it is important to select appropriate individuals and organisations to give evidence to this review.
- 3.2 Setting an indicative timetable based on members and witnesses availability will help maintain focus.
- 3.3 It is often easier to arrange meetings for a relatively small group of people to receive evidence than the full Board.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 At the last meeting of this Board, members agreed to proceed with the review of the electoral cycle as requested by Council. Members also agreed the criteria to guide the review as it enables the Board to identify relevant information to be considered and conduct an objective assessment of the different electoral cycles. The criteria agreed at the last meeting is used to identify individuals and organisations and an indicative timetable for completion of the review.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Witness</b>	<b>When</b>
cost comparison between election-by-thirds and four-yearly elections	Electoral Team	Wk beginning 3 Sept
Comparing the impact on administration of elections	Electoral Team	Wk beginning 3 Sept
Comparing the impact on voter participation between the two elections cycles	Returning Officer	Wk beginning 3 Sept
Impact on political parties and candidates	Returning Officer Group Leaders	Wk beginning 3 Sept
Comparing impact on long-term policy decisions of the council	Chief Executive / Strategic Directors Current and former leaders of Council	Wk beginning 17 September
Comparing the impact on the well- being of the city between election by thirds and four yearly elections	Chief Executive/ Strategic Directors Chamber of Commerce Marketing Derby	Wk beginning 17 September
Consider experience/ approach of authorities that have considered making changes	Bristol CC Newcastle Sefton MDC Purbeck DB	October
Experience of regional councils	Nottingham CC Leicester CC	October
Consider evidence and agree draft set of recommendations		November
Scrutiny Board to agree final report		7 January
Report presented to Council		30 January

- 4.2 Considering making changes to Derby's current electoral cycle is a far reaching decision. It is suggested the Board consider undertaking a public consultation exercise especially to look at ways barriers to registration and voter participation.
- 4.3 Any changes to the current electoral system need to be agreed by at least 34 councillors being two thirds of the total number of councillors.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

**For more information contact:** Mahroof Hussain 01332 643647 mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk  
**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 – Implications

### This report has been approved by the following officers:

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

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
---------------------

**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.