



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

13 January 2021

Report Title:	Returning Officer - Review of Election Expenses 2021/22
Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member – Finance and Governance
Cabinet Member	Councillor Martin Bond
Exempt Report	No
Reason for Exemption	N/A
Key Decision	No
Public Notice issued	N/A
Wards Affected	All
Report of	Kath O'Dwyer Chief Executive kathodwyer@sthelens.gov.uk 01744 676100
Contact Officer	Beverley Kenrick Electoral Services Manager bevkenrick@Sthelens.gov.uk 01744 676140

Borough priorities Please mark X for any priority supported by this report NB Use Section 4 - Background Information to explain how each selected priority is supported	Ensure children and young people have a positive start in life	
	Promote good health, independence and care across our communities	
	Create safe and strong communities for our residents	
	Support a strong, diverse and well-connected local economy	
	Create a green, thriving and vibrant place to be proud of	
	Be a modern, efficient and effective Council	X

1. Summary

- 1.1 The election fees for 2020/2021 were approved by Council in January 2020 with an agreement for annual inflation. The GDP deflator for the period since the last review, indicates that general inflation in the domestic economy for the period is 2.44% The fees of 2021/2022 will therefore be increased by 2.44%.

The proposed scale of election fees for 2021/2022, are attached at Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations for Decision

Council is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the scale of election fees for 2021/2022 attached to the report at Appendix 1

3. Purpose of this Report

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the scale of the fees and reimbursements payable by the Returning Officer for 2021/2022.

4. Background /Reasons for the recommendations

- 4.1 Section 36 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that the District Council shall pay all the expenditure properly incurred by a Returning Officer, in relation to the holding of District Elections. This section also gives the Council the power to fix a scale of expenditure for these purposes.

5. Community Impact Assessment

N/A

6 Consideration of Alternatives

None.

7 Conclusions

7.1 To approve the scale of election fees for 2021/22.

8. Implications

8.1 Legal Implications

None.

8.2 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Implications

N/A

8.2.1 Social Value

None.

8.2.2 Sustainability and Environment

None.

8.2.3 Health and Wellbeing

None.

8.2.4 Equality and Human Rights

None.

8.3 Customers and Resident

None.

8.4 Asset and Property

None.

8.5 Staffing and Human Resource

None.

8.6 Risks

Comparative and appropriately positioned election fees enables experienced staff to be recruited each year.

8.7 Finance

To be met within existing budget.

8.8 Policy Framework Implications

None.

9. Background papers

None

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Returning Officer Fees and Charges for Borough Elections 2021/22