

TO: REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2006

SUBJECT: PARISH OF WESTON UNDER WETHERLEY

FROM: MEMEBERS' SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider a request from the Clerk to the Parish of Weston-under-Wetherley for the District Council to cover the first election expenses of the new Parish Council.

2. BACKGROUND

During 2002 the District Council undertook a review of Parish and Town Council electoral arrangements and recommended the separation of the parish of Weston-under-Wetherley from the joint Parish Council of Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch, Wappenbury and Weston-under-Wetherley and the creation of a new Parish Council for Weston-under-Wetherley.

In 2003 the Parish Council asked the District Council if it could meet the cost of the first election to elect the 6 new parish councillors should the election take place in 2004. The costs would place a significant financial burden on the new Parish Council.

It was resolved at that time for officers to report back to the Committee for further consideration as soon as a response had been received from the Electoral Commission if elections were to be conducted in 2004.

The Electoral Commission is currently processing the final recommendations and drafting the Parish Order to come into force by 1 April, 2007.

Elections for new parish councillors will therefore take place at the same time as the District Parish and Town Council elections to be held on Thursday 3 May, 2007.

3. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

All election costs at the District Parish and Town Council elections are divided equally between the Parish and Town Councils and the District Council.

Costs specifically for a Parish or Town Council will be charged back to the individual Council, for example printing of ballot papers.

The 2003 election charge for the parish of Weston-under-Wetherley uncontested election was £185.53. The cost of an equivalent Parish Council contested election to the new Weston-under-Wetherley Parish Council was £1590.73. An approximation of this figure for the 2007 elections would now be £1800 to £2000.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to consider the request from the parish of Weston-under-Wetherley.

Gillian Friar
Electoral Services Manager

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The letter received from the Clerk to the parish of Weston-under-Wetherley as enclosed.

Areas in District Affected: **Parish of Weston-under-Wetherley**
 District ward of Cubbington

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Key Decision: *No*

Included in Forward Plan: *No*

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