

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING: **Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel**

AGENDA
ITEM
NUMBER

MEETING DATE: **12th March**

TITLE: **Review of Electoral Services during the 2011 elections**

WARD: All

List of attachments to this report:

Appendix 1: Report of Electoral workshop findings

Appendix 2: Workshop briefing pack including information on Individual Voter Registration, Review of Polling Districts and the schedule for the workshop session.

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 After any elections there are often issues that arise from candidates and agents as to the operation of the event. The workshop session which was held on the 14th December 2011 provided the opportunity to review how the recent elections went and identify any issues that may have arisen from the operation or process. This would enable the Council to learn from these issues and make any necessary improvements for future elections.
- 1.2 A mixture of Council/ Parish Members, Officers and Election Agents were invited to the session. On the day the turnout was fairly low, however the smaller number of groups enabled more detailed discussions to be made
- 1.3 This review excluded the Parliamentary Boundary Commission Review; the borders and names of local authorities, and also electoral areas within Local Authorities.
- 1.4 It was agreed by the steering group that the findings from the workshop session would be formally presented to the Resources Policy Development Panel and any recommendations would go to full Council during 2012. (The key findings from the workshop session and recommendations are attached as Appendix 1.)

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

At the Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel meeting on the 12th March the Panel are asked to:-

- 2.1 Consider and make any further comments on the findings and recommendations from the Report of Electoral workshop findings.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The costs associated with this review are being met from within the annual budget available to the Panel

4 THE REPORT

4.1 The full details for this review are contained in the Report of workshop findings attached at Appendix 1.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6 EQUALITIES

Equalities issues should be considered by the panel as part of their work in formulating their recommendations at the end of this review process

7 ADVICE SOUGHT

The Council's Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) and Section 151 Officer (Strategic Director - Support Services) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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| Contact person(s) | Donna Vercoe, Policy Development & Scrutiny (01225 396053) Lauren Rushen, Policy Development & Scrutiny (01225 39 4456) <i>Task & Finish Group Members:</i> Cllr John Bull (01225 835100) Cllr Charles Gerrish (0117 9868426) |
| Background papers | None attached |
| Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format | |