

Consultation by the Cabinet Office

Local Election Fees Order

Closing Date for responses 21 December 2022

Douglas Borough Council's response

Local Authorities are requested to consider which of the following options they would prefer to form the basis of a new Local Elections (Fees) Order 2023:

Option 1 – No change in fees payable from those listed in the Local Elections (Fees) Order 2020

No, not acceptable to offer no increase.

Option 2 – Increase the fees payable in line with RPI at April 2022 (12.0%)

No.

Option 3 – Increase the fees payable in line with RPI at September 2022 (17.3%)

No.

Option 4 - Increase the fees payable in line with CPI at April 2022 (9.8%)

No.

Option 5 – Increase the fees payable in line with CPI at September 2022 (15.2%)

Yes.

Douglas Borough Council should be keeping to the level of fees for the Keys elections, and if the Cabinet Office (which, under the new legislation, will be 'in charge' of elections) is recommending Option 5, then Douglas Borough Council would support that.

Rationale

One of the many problems in relation to elections (both local and national), is trying to interest enough people to carry out the duties of the various officials. The fees are very low, and the hours required to undertake the role is usually longer than people realise. It is usually quite difficult to encourage people to participate; and it is, of course, entirely voluntary. Douglas Borough Council have had difficulties many times trying to obtain the requisite number of people/staff.

To encourage people/staff to participate in Local Authority Elections the rate of remuneration needs to match that of Keys elections. If the difference between the Keys elections and the Local Authority

Elections is too great, Douglas Borough Council may find difficulty recruiting to the Local Authority ones.

It is important to retain a number of officials who are experienced, as well as recruiting new ones; so if the fees are not at a suitable level, we may not be able to do that.