

## THE COUNCIL'S ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

### AMENDED FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

#### 8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The decision on electoral arrangements will have financial implications. Retaining elections by thirds results in no additional costs as the budget is already based on this pattern of elections. A decision to move to whole council elections could produce savings in the future, and could help the Council when setting a fully balanced budget.
- 8.2 The respective costs of the two options for the period from 2014 to 2020 are set out in the table below. Whole council elections cost more than elections by thirds as they involve elections across the whole City, whereas in each year of elections by thirds, elections are held over the majority of the City.
- 8.3 The cost of a whole Council election is estimated at £125,000. However, if the dates coincide with elections for other bodies then costs may be shared.
- 8.4 Elections by thirds will cost approximately £60,000 a year for three years out of every four, except in years where there is a three-way combination of elections, such as in 2020, where the cost will be approximately £42,000 as the costs will be split across the three elections. This is dependent on there being another election in each year with which costs will be shared. Where there is a year where there is no other election the cost to the City Council increases to £125,000 as it becomes liable for all election costs. This is anticipated in 2018.
- 8.5 If it can be assumed that Costs will always be shared, the cost of elections by thirds in a four year cycle is approximately £190,000 and for the whole Council elections system it is £65,000, although costs for both elections by thirds and whole Council elections will decrease in the event of a three-way combination.
- 8.6 The projected savings for the City Council based on the assumptions in the table are £310,000 over seven years. If there was no cost sharing for whole council elections the saving would reduce to £167,000.

	Elections by thirds <i>Estimated Costs</i>	Whole Council elections. <i>Estimated Costs</i>
May 2014	£70,000 (based on split with European Elections – All 15 Wards up for election)	

May 2015	£60,000 (based on split with Parliamentary Elections – only 11 Wards up for election)	
May 2016	£60,000 (based on split with PCC Elections – only 10 Wards up for election)	£65,000 ( £125,000 Total cost shared with PCC)
May 2017 (County Council elections)	No City Council Elections	No City Council Elections if all out
May 2018	£125,000 – All 15 Wards, no combination)	No City Council Elections if all out
May 2019	£60,000 (based on split with European Elections – only 11 Wards up for election)	No City Council Elections if all out
May 2020	£42,000 (based on split with Parliamentary and PCC Elections – only 10 Wards up for election)	£42,000 (£125,000 Total cost shared with Parliamentary and PCC)
Total 2014 - 2020	£417,000 ( <i>estimate</i> )	£107,000 ( <i>estimate</i> )
Saving compared to current budget		£310,000 ( <i>estimate</i> )

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)