

## **ELECTORAL SERVICES – 4 YEARLY ELECTORAL CYCLE**

The report proposes a saving option in relation to the Council moving to a 4 yearly electoral cycle rather than elections being held in thirds over a 4 year period with one year being a fallow year; elections would be held on a 4 yearly cycle where all 66 seats within the Borough are contested in one year.

A net saving of £100,000 can be realised for each of the years 2015/16 and 2016/17.

### **RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS**

This option would enable greater efficiencies to be achieved as it would reduce the duplication of certain costs where elections are held in thirds.

The Council has 66 elected Members who are appointed on a 4 year term. Currently local elections are held in 3 of the 4 years. At each local election one third of Members (22) stand for election – that equates to one elected member standing for election in each of the 22 wards within the Borough.

There is therefore no local election held in the fourth year of the electoral cycle. 2013/14 is a fallow local election year. Savings would be made in 2015/16 and 2016/17.

### **IMPACT**

The elections would be more significant and require greater management as all 66 seats would be contested.

The Council has a legal obligation to run a local election, by-election and referenda under the Localism Act 2010. The Council has a legal obligation to make available to the Returning Officer such resources considered reasonable and necessary to ensure the effective running of an election.

### **MITIGATION**

Members and the public will need to be consulted in relation to this proposal.