

## **FUNDING FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES**

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** Cllr. Norman Williams  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Martin Jepson – Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Alan Southward – Elections Manager

**Summary:** This report seeks agreement of the Executive to the use of £25,000 during 2006/07 from the Council's budget.

**Recommendation:**

1. **Executive approves the use of £25,000 in 2006/07 for Electoral Purposes from the Council's budget 2006/07.**
2. **Executive delegates to the Chief Executive the authority to manage the above funding.**

**Impact on delivering Corporate Plan objectives:** There are no specific impacts on Corporate objectives.

**Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21):** The proposed use of monies is for compliance with statutory requirements under the new Electoral Administration Act.

**Financial and human resource implications:** However as the funding is already committed the only alternative is to fund expenditure from Contingencies. Balance before this amount is deducted is £62,627. The Council already has funding available within the overall grant settlement.

**Project & Risk Management:** The work required is set out in the attached Appendix.

### **Key Decision Status**

- **Financial:** None  
- **Ward:** None

**Other Ward Implications:** None

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 After the 2006/07 budget process had been started your officers become aware that the Government intended to include a sum in the Council's 2006/07 budget settlement for Electoral Purposes. The overall sum is £25,000.
- 1.2 It was not possible to make a budget bid for this amount because the budget process was well under way by the time. Nevertheless the Government have indicated via the Chief Executive and Head of Finance and Business Development. that they wish to see the monies used for the purposes connected with the new Electoral Administration Act and the Council will be asked to account for these monies.

## 2. ARGUMENT

2.1 The Council has received the additional funding from the Government. The monies have to be used for Electoral Administration Act purposes. Additional duties which have to be undertaken include writing to all postal voters and requesting an up to date signature and date of birth. A second and third letter will be sent if no response is forthcoming with a final letter informing postal voters they will be removed from the postal voters register. These signatures will be scanned into the Electoral Registration system (Pickwick) and will be checked against those on the postal voters identifier on receipt of the completed vote at election time.

Checking these combined with extended opening hours for polling stations will necessitate the counting of votes being held on the Friday following elections, with added costs involved.

2.2 Executive is asked to approve the use of this funding during 2006/07. It is anticipated that similar funding will be provided specifically to the Council in subsequent years.

### List of Appendices:

A: [Correspondence from Government](#)

### List of Background Documents:

As Above

### List of Consultees:

Corporate Team  
Councillor Norman Williams