

**To:** Full Council

**Date:** 3rd February 2014

**Item No:**

**Report of:** Returning Officer

**Title of Report:** Elections Staff Fees and the Oxford Living Wage

## Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To seek an amendment to the delegated authority for the Returning Officer to approve the scale of fees for elections held in the City.

**Key decision:** No

**Executive lead member:** Councillor Bob Price

**Report Approved by:**

**Finance:** Nigel Kennedy (Head of Finance)

**Legal:** Jeremy Thomas (Head of Law and Governance/Returning Officer)

**Policy Framework:** No

**Recommendation(s):** Council is asked to agree to amend the delegated power of the Returning Officer to agree election fees to allow him to alter those fees where any payment to an individual at would fall below the prevailing Oxford Living Wage.

## Background

1. Council has previously given the Returning Officer the delegated power to adopt the scale of fees for elections approved and issued by Oxfordshire County Council, so long as he does so unchanged.
2. Following the adoption by the Council of the Oxford Living Wage checks have been carried out to see whether the election fees comply. Currently one fee does not satisfy the Living Wage criteria.
3. To enable the Returning Officer to ensure compliance Council is asked to continue the delegation to him to approve the County Council agreed

scale of fees but to allow him to alter those fees where any payment to an individual would fall below the prevailing Oxford Living Wage.

4. This decision would apply to all City Council and parish elections and those other elections where the Returning Officer has a power to vary any fee, for example national elections. This decision would not cover elections to Oxfordshire County Council where the fees are set by the County's Returning Officer.

#### **Risk Implications**

5. There are no risk implications relating to this report.

#### **Financial Implications**

6. There is a small increased cost arising from the change (£1118 in 14/15) but it is relatively small and can be contained within existing budgets.

#### **Legal implications**

7. There are no legal implications.

#### **Name and contact details of author:**

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**Background papers:** No

**Version number:** 1