

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting25th November 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

Review of Parliamentary General Election 2010 and emerging issues for 2011

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report that provided feedback from a review of the Parliamentary General Election 2010. The report also looked ahead to next year's Local and Parish Elections , the likely referendum on the Parliamentary voting system and the possible Mayoral referendum.

Members were provided with details of what had gone well, including:-

- Staffing and the corporate commitment to release Council employed staff to work on elections.
- Partnership with NEPO contractors Adare
- Use of Thornaby Pavilion for the verification and count
- Use of Architects to establish best use of floor space

Cabinet noted that many of the procedures and practices in place would be improved further and would assist with next year's Local Elections

It was considered that improvements to arrangements could be made by reducing the number of mobile polling stations used. Brief details of how officers were working to achieve a reduction were provided to members.

It was explained that the Electoral Commission had produced a report on the 2010 General Elections and details of the reports findings were set out for members. The report also set out the Commission's agenda for the next five years and called on the Government to respond to recommendations that were made in 2008 to produce a comprehensive plan for ensuring consistently effective management and delivery of elections.

Members noted that the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill was being considered by the House of Lords. The Bill proposed a referendum on whether to adopt the 'alternative vote' system instead of the 'first past the post' system for Westminster Parliamentary Elections.

The referendum would take place on 5 May 2011, the same day as the Local and Parish Elections. Cabinet considered some of the logistical challenges that would be created by the elections and referendum taking place on the same day. These challenges would be increased further should a Mayoral referendum also need to take place on that day.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. the corporate commitment to encourage SBC staff to undertake election duties be renewed
2. Officers continue to work with colleagues in Architects to establish best use of floor space to accommodate the Count for the Referendum, Local and Parish elections and the area designated for the adjudication of ballot papers for the Referendum, Local and Parish elections
3. the impact of additional legislation for the 2011 multiple elections be reported to Corporate Management Team as relevant information becomes available.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Administration Act 2006. The proposals highlighted within this report would assist in ensuring compliance with any additional legislative requirements relating to elections.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not applicable

Proper Officer
29 November 2010