

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting16th May 2013

1. Title of Item/Report

Individual Electoral Registration (IER) - Update on Implementation

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report on the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER).

Members were provided with details of the proposals and how IER would be implemented over the next four years. Members also received details of what IER would mean for citizens, local democracy, Electoral Registration Officers and the Council.

Cabinet was informed of the funding issues relating to IER:

- The Government was committed to funding the transitional costs and Section 151 Officers had been asked to sign a declaration that the s.31 grant would be used to fund the new responsibilities and not other registration duties which were to be met from local authority budgets in the usual way
- An up-front formula grant allocation of £8,778.06 had been released to the Council on 22/04/13 in relation to the funding of IER for the 2013/14 financial year. This up-front grant was to enable EROs to carry out work in relation to change management and the confirmation dry run. The ERO intended submitting evidence to support a bid for further funding on the basis that the necessary hardware and software upgrades to support the confirmation dry run were estimated to be £17,324.30 and therefore exceeded the up-front funding allocation
- An indication of funding for 2014/15 would not be known until Local Authorities had tested the confirmation process this summer and Cabinet Office had indicated that it would not be in a position to offer details on on-going funding as this fell into the next spending review period
- Printing, postal and staffing costs (including door to door canvassing) would be significant based on data matching estimates and

estimates of the unconfirmed population. Residents would need to be written to more than once and canvassed if necessary. A clearer picture would emerge following the 2013 confirmation dry run. It was likely that additional temporary staff would be employed during the transition period to assist with peaks in workload and canvassing

RESOLVED that the current position regarding the introduction of IER and the initial funding allocation be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To advise Cabinet of the implications of the introduction of IER, which would require significant changes to business systems, IT infrastructure and existing interfaces with the electorate, contractors and third parties.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight on Friday, 24 May 2013

Proper Officer
20 May 2013