

## **FOUR YEARLY ELECTIONS \_ - NEXT STEPS**

### **THE LEGAL POSITION**

#### **Relevant legislation:**

#### **Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 31 onwards**

Before 2008, the process of changing the electoral cycle involved seeking approval through the Secretary of State. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 gave Councils the opportunity to decide this issue themselves, subject to certain restrictions as to the years the whole-council could be held in.

#### **The Localism Act 2011**

The Localism Act (section 24) now allows councils that currently elect by thirds or halves to resolve, at anytime, to move to whole-council elections. The council, when passing its resolution, must specify the year in which it will hold its first election and elections will then be held every fourth year thereafter. (The only condition relates to a district council in two tier areas – not us – who may not specify the county council election year).

Once a council has resolved to move to whole-council elections it may ask the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to conduct a review with a view to the council moving to single member wards.

So as far as the law is concerned it is a fairly open book. Whether it is administratively practical within a short time frame is another question.

#### **Presumption**

The Council decides to move to Whole Council elections in May/June 2014, the next year of the borough electoral cycle.

#### **Next Steps**

Before being able to make a resolution to change to whole-council elections every four years, the council must:

- Take reasonable steps to consult such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change
- Convene a special meeting of council to consider the proposed change
- Have at least two thirds of those voting at the meeting vote in favour of the proposed change

- Ensure that the year for the first ordinary whole council election is specified in the resolution
- Produce explanatory publicity material and inform the Electoral Commission of the change if made **Example timetable**

<b>2013</b>								
<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June / July / August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
Corporate O&S recommends to full council		Full council decides whether to consult		Extensive Consultation	Full Council receives details of consultation. Convenes as a special meeting and votes on whether to change election cycle			
<b>2014</b>								
<b>May / June</b>								
Whole Borough Election & European Election								

THE FINANCIAL POSITION								
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Current budget profile</b>	-	Borough	Borough	Borough	-	Borough	Borough	Borough
	-	-	General	-	-	-	-	General
		European					European	
	-	-	-	PCC	-	-	-	PCC
Cost of Borough Election		120,000	120,000	120,000		200,000	120,000	100,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Projected budget profile</b>		Borough (Whole)				Borough (Whole)		
	-	-	General	-	-	-	-	General
		European					European	
	-	-	-	PCC	-	-	-	PCC
Cost of Borough Election		140,000	0	0	0	230,000	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>(20,000)</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(30,000)</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Assumptions</b>								
Borough election thirds, not combined			200,000					
Borough election (whole),not combined			230,000					
Borough election combined, thirds			120,000					
Borough election combined, whole			140,000					
Borough election thirds, combined (three elections)			100,000					