

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
COUNCIL
29 SEPTEMBER 2010
REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE
ELECTORAL CYCLE

1. Purpose of Report

To ask the Council to consider whether it wants to pursue a change to the Electoral Cycle to provide for whole Council elections every 4 years.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 Council is recommended to consider whether to pursue a change to the electoral cycle or not.
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3. Summary (inc. brief overview of relevant background history)

3.1 In December 2008 the Council considered the result of a consultation exercise on the future electoral cycle for Council elections. The options were to continue with elections by thirds or to move to whole Council elections. The Council resolved to move to whole Council elections commencing in 2011.

3.2 In November 2009 the Council were informed that the decision it took in December 2008 was invalid as the proper legal procedure had not been followed. The current position is that the Council's electoral cycle remains as elections by thirds. If the Council wants to change to whole Council elections from May 2011 a decision would have to be made at a special Council meeting called for that purpose before the end of December 2010. A majority of at least two thirds of the members voting on it would be required to pass a resolution changing the electoral cycle.

3.3 The public consultation on the electoral cycle was carried out in the summer of 2008. Counsel's advice is that it would be advisable to carry out a further limited consultation exercise to check the continued validity of the 2008 consultation before asking the Council to take the decision again to move to whole Council Elections.

3.4 If the Council is not minded to change to whole Council elections the Council only needs to decide not to proceed further with the process. This does not require a special meeting or a two thirds majority. If the Council decides not to pursue the process the effect will be that the Council will continue with its current electoral cycle of elections by thirds. The next opportunity to change to whole Council elections would be in 2015 and a decision to change then would need to be taken before the end of December 2014.

3.5 If the Council decides to pursue the process for a change to whole Council elections in 2011 a limited consultation exercise will be carried out to check that the previous consultation is still valid and a special Council meeting will be organised before the end of December to consider the change.

4. Key issues and Implications

If the Council wants to pursue a change to whole Council elections a special Council meeting will need to be organised before the end of December 2010. If the Council decides not to pursue the change in the electoral cycle no further action will be needed.

5. Conclusions and Reason(s) for the Recommendation(s)

The Council needs to decide whether to pursue the process of changing the electoral cycle at this time so that a special Council meeting can be arranged if necessary.

6. Other Options Considered

The Council has the option of pursuing the change to the electoral cycle or remaining with the current electoral arrangements.

7. Report Author Details

Stephen Brown – Chief Executive

SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Annexes to the Report i.e. copies of correspondence, plans etc.

Annex 1, 2, 3 etc

Section 1

Contribution to Council Priorities (i.e. CHASE, Corporate Plan)

There is no direct contribution to the Corporate Priorities.

Section 2

Contribution to Promoting Community Engagement

There is no direct contribution to promoting community engagement as a direct result of this report.

Section 3

Financial Implications

Provision of £102,550 (£138,600 inclusive of recharges) exists within the 2011-12 revenue budget for the current policy of election by thirds.

The cost of undertaking four yearly whole council elections is estimated to be £171,010 (£246,190 inclusive of recharges).

An additional marginal cost of £68,460 will occur in 2011-12 if four yearly elections are adopted and although this will need to be accommodated in next years revenue budget an overall saving of £37,900 will accrue over the next medium term budget plan rising to annual savings of £34,000 per annum in each 4 year budget cycle.

The cost of the consultation exercise undertaken in 2008 amounted to £3,045 however only limited consultation is now proposed to check whether the previous consultation is still valid and this can be contained within existing resources.

Section 4

Legal Implications

The legal implications are set out in the body of the report

Section 5

Human Resource Implications

There are no identifiable Human Resource implications arising from this report at this time.

Section 6

Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

There are no Section 17 implications

Section 7

Human Rights Act Implications

There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

Section 8

Data Protection Act Implications

There are no Data Protection Implications

Section 9

Risk Management Implications

There are no identifiable Risk Management implications arising from this report at this time.

Section 10

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no Equality and Diversity Implications

Section 11

List of Background Papers

Section 12

Report History

Council Meeting	Date
Outcome of Consultation on Potential Changes to the Electoral Cycle	10 December 2008
Electoral Cycle	4 November 2009

Annexes to Report

None