



CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 30 JUNE 2008

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**PROPOSALS FOR MOVING THE DATE OF LOCAL ELECTIONS TO THE
SAME DATE AS EUROPEAN ELECTIONS IN 2009**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to determine a County Council response to a consultation paper issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government on the possibility of holding the local and European elections on the same day in 2009.

Background

2. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) has recently issued a consultation paper on this matter, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A to this report.
3. The consultation paper in particular seeks views on the following questions:-
 - A. Do you believe that Government should seek to move the date of the local elections in 2009 from 7 May to 4 June, so that they are held on the same day as the European Parliamentary elections?
 - B. If the elections to principal authorities are moved, should Government also seek to move the date of any parish council elections scheduled to take place on 7 May 2009 (this is particularly relevant for those councils undergoing structural change where we are seeking the views of the Implementation Executive/transitional council on the desirability of parish council elections taking place in 2009)?
 - C. What practical issues do you foresee in combining effectively local (and where applicable, parish) elections with the European Parliamentary elections?
 - D. What action do you think should be taken to address these practical issues (whether by local authorities, Government or the Electoral Commission)?

4. The Authority appoints the District Councils to undertake County Council elections on its behalf and the practical issues, referred to in questions C and D, are something which they may be in a better position to comment upon. The District Councils have been consulted by the CLG which has said that it is particularly interested in the views of electoral administrators.
5. The consultation period ends on 11 August 2008.

Resources Implications

6. A decision to combine the County Council elections with the European elections in 2009 would reduce significantly the costs incurred by the County Council.
7. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on this report.

Recommendation

8. The Committee is asked to determine how the County Council should respond to the questions posed in the Consultation Paper.

Background Papers

9. Letter dated 20 May 2008 from the Deputy Director of Local Democracy, CLG.

Circulation Under Sensitive Issues Procedure

10. None.

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Relevant Impact Assessments

Equal Opportunities Implications

11. None.