

**To the Chair and Members of the
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE**

**MAYORAL AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS –
4TH JUNE 2009 – SECOND PROGRESS REPORT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Mayoral and European Elections will both take place on the 4th June 2009 the purpose of this report is to report ongoing progress that has been made in the preparations for the elections.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Committee is asked to consider and approve the report subject to any comments it wishes to make in relation to the contents.

BACKGROUND

3. In the previous report it was reported that the arrangements for the conduct of both elections were prescribed in separate regulations. Whilst the Mayoral Election Regulations had already been updated to comply with current legislation, amendments to the European Parliamentary Election Regulations were awaiting affirmative ratification by both Houses of Parliament. This process was completed at the end of January 2009 and regulations covering both elections are now in place.
4. Unfortunately the finalisation of the Returning Officers Fees and Charges Order has still not been completed at the time of the preparation of this report. However ongoing negotiations by Regional returning Officers and submissions by Local Returning Officers have resulted in an improved level of funding being included in the proposed order although the detailed content of this is not currently available to us. The proposals have been submitted for treasury consideration by the Ministry of Justice and it is anticipated that it should be possible to finalise the order by the end February 2009. Further information will be reported as this becomes available.

5. Despite the ongoing delays experienced with the legislation planning has continued to take place at both a regional and local level to prepare for the elections. Significant preparation has gone into material for nomination packs and design for postal vote stationary to be used for both the European and Mayoral elections. The Electoral Commission produces guidance information for Mayoral candidates and is currently updating this along with the return of Candidates Expenses. As soon as these documents are available nomination packs can be finalised and made available for prospective candidates.
6. Any further progress or issues that arise will be reported at the meeting.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7. The elections are a statutory duty and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES

- 8.

Doncaster Priorities	Implications of this initiative
A Prosperous Place	The democratic process contributes directly to the well being and prosperity of the area
Skills & Lifelong Learning	See note in Prosperous Place
Healthy & Caring	See note in Prosperous Place
Safer, Cleaner & Greener	See note in Prosperous Place
Equality of Opportunity (Cross-Cutting)	See note in Prosperous Place
Improving Neighbourhoods Together (Cross-cutting)	See note in Prosperous Place
Protecting The Environment (Cross-cutting)	See note in Prosperous Place
Achieving Excellence	See note in Prosperous Place

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. The delivery of an election is a significant and complex undertaking with strict statutory deadlines. Planning is a key component in reducing or eliminating risks and any unnecessary delay in the progress of matters integral to the planning and the delivery of the election creates additional problems.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The provisions for the conduct of the Mayoral election are contained in the Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 and for the European Parliamentary Election in the European Parliamentary Election Regulations 2004 as amended by the European parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Regulations 2009. These regulations set detailed requirements for the conduct of the elections subject to the requirements of primary legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The cost of the Mayoral election is met by the Council whilst funding for the European parliamentary Election is met by the Government. The combination of the elections and the sharing of costs will reduce the overall cost burden of the elections to both the Council and the Government. Provision has been made within the 2009 budget for the cost of the Mayoral election.

CONSULTATION

12. Consultation is not undertaken in connection with elections however activities will be undertaken at a national regional and local level to raise awareness and promote participation in the elections.

REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTORS

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

File – European Parliamentary Election – 4th June 2009;
Mayoral Election – 4th June 2009

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