

## Policy & Resources Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 February 2016</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Local Parish Elections Costs 2015</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Morag Robinson, Office Administration Manager</b>

### Purpose of Report

1. To provide background to the under budgeted costs incurred relating to the 2015 local parish election costs for Thame.

### Background

2. The count for the local parish elections in 2011 did not go well and some fundamental operational costs were not passed on to parishes as a consequence.
3. Prior to the 2015 election the District Council provided an estimate of likely costs of around £9,000. This was provided in mid-January - after budget setting and before agreement that counts be split across different locations.
4. The budget agreed by the Council for the election charges was set at £1,000 with an earmarked reserve in place of £1,493. This was closer to the 2011 costs.

### Resource Appraisal

5. The invoice received from the District Council has allocated costs for the north ward of £3,381.26 and the south ward of £3,691.64 which results in a total cost of £7,072.90.
6. Clarification of the charges was sought from the District Council and a thorough investigation was undertaken by officers to ensure that all charges were reasonable.
7. Facts on cost per elector and cost per vote were established from other Town Councils across the country, and the cost to Thame was the lowest found.
8. It is clear that the Council under budgeted for the 2015 local parish election costs which has resulted in an over spend of £4,579.90 over allocated budget and reserves.

**Legal Powers:** Local Government Act 1972 s 111

### Recommendation

*It is recommended that:*

- i) The over spend of £4,579.90 in regard to the 2015 local parish election costs for Thame be approved and be allocated from General Reserves.***