

Full Council

Date:	22 January 2019
Title:	Publicity for 2019 Elections
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide background for the discussion on potential publicity for the May 2019 Town and Parish elections.

Background

2. It is accepted good practice, in the interests of democracy and appropriate representation, that a Parish Council / Town Council should encourage individuals to stand for election to the Council.
3. Any process followed must show complete independence, without any Political involvement whatsoever.
4. The individuals in the best position to provide guidance and support for any publicity campaign are those currently in position, i.e. elected Councillors.
5. Officers including the Town Clerk, the Community Services Manager, the Committee Services Officer and the Community Project Officer could be made available to assist, but preferably not to lead.
6. The National Association of Local Councils provide a pack for the purpose, but it is likely to need some customisation to Thame's specific needs.

Proposal

7. That one or more Councillors are nominated to take a lead on preparing and executing a publicity campaign to encourage members of the public to stand in the Town Council Elections on 2 May 2019.

Resource Appraisal

8. Any incidental costs would be allocated from existing relevant budget lines.

Risk Assessment

9. This will reduce the risk of uncontested elections which would reflect poorly on democracy and could jeopardise the Town Council's General Power of Competence.

Legal Powers

10. There are specific powers that could be applied, but the project is also covered by the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011.