

CABINET

18 November 2003

COMBINED EUROPEAN AND LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS 2004 -  
CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

REPORT OF CITY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB 738 – European Parliamentary Elections

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has issued draft Statutory Instruments concerning the proposed combined elections which, inter alia, give details of how Councillors terms of office will be dealt with, if the local elections are postponed from 6 May to 10 June 2004, to coincide with the European Parliamentary Elections.

It is proposed to extend the term of office for all District and Parish Councillors due for election from the fourth day after 6 May, until the fourth day after 10 June 2004. In 2005, the date for local elections returns to the first Thursday in May. In effect, therefore, Councillors will serve a 13 month term of office in 2003/04 and an 11 month term of office in 2004/05.

With regard to the Annual Meeting of a Council, it is proposed to amend the regulations to allow for such meetings to take place up to 31 July 2004. Members will note from Report CAB 743 elsewhere on this agenda that the City Council's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 23 June 2004.

A further point is that the amended regulations will allow any Parish Council elections also to be held on 10 June 2004. Fortunately, there are only five Parish Councils in the district due for re-election in 2004, so this will not be a major complication. All Parish Councils will be contacted after this meeting to update them on all the above information.

In summary, the above changes were anticipated as logical consequences of combining the two elections and it is not recommended that the Council makes any representations on this occasion.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister be informed that the City Council has no comments on the consequential arrangements for amending terms of office in connection with the European Parliament and Local Authority Elections on 10 June 2004.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

1.1 The Council to be more open and democratic in its work.

2 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

2.1 The combining of elections usually results in some savings, but the decision about which European regions have been selected for the pilot schemes referred to in Report CAB 738, will have an impact for the reasons explained in that report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

None