

Report on	Election Costs
Date of Meeting	7 November 2019
Reporting Officer	Chief Executive
Contact Officer	Chief Executive

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise Members of the costs incurred in running the local government election in May 2019.
2.0	Background
2.1	The local government election was held on Thursday 2 May 2019, with verification of unused ballot papers taking place that night and counting of used ballot papers the following day.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Costs incurred in the preparation and delivery of the election are as detailed in Appendix 1. The total cost of running the election was £329,740.17.
3.2	Members will note that the majority of costs were incurred by the Electoral Office who managed voter registration, packed ballot boxes, ran the polling stations and transported ballot boxes to and from the polling stations. These costs amounted to £170,238.92, approximately £100k higher than in 2014 which was a combined election. The second highest cost was incurred by Royal Mail in the delivery of candidate literature to the electorate, amounting to £64,505.63, approximately £12k higher than in 2014. Staffing costs for the unused verification and count were £42,158.31, compared to £42,925.50 in 2014 despite an increase of £4/hr in the rate for count assistants in the 2019 election.
3.3	A Fees and Expenses scale for the Northern Ireland local government elections held on 2 May 2019 was signed into force by Lord Duncan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in March 2019. This scale set a maximum amount of £290,604 (exclusive of candidate mailings) that could be spent in the delivery of the local government election. The actual spend on the Mid Ulster local government election with the cost of candidate mailings removed was £265,234.54 which was approximately £25k below the limit.

3.4	Members will note that, of the £265,234.54, approximately 64% of expenditure was due to Electoral Office costs that are out of councils control. Where it not for the very efficient way the Mid Ulster count was delivered in a single day, the cost limit would have most likely been exceeded. In the event of single elections in the future Members may wish to request and increase in the spending limit.
4.0	Other Considerations
	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: As noted above.
	Human: As noted above
	Risk Management: None
4.4	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members note the content of the report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	2019 Election Costs

ELECTION COSTS – LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 2 May 2019

COUNCIL AREA: Mid Ulster

Deputy Returning Officer's Fees for conducting the election (inclusive of Travelling Expenses)		£
Deputy Returning Officer's Fees (excluding ERNIC and Superannuation)		0.00
Staff Costs (inclusive of Travelling Expenses)		
Assistant Deputy Returning Officer(s) inclusive of Travelling Expenses (excluding ERNIC and Superannuation)		2,341.00
Staffing Costs		39,817.31
Staff Costs Total		42,158.31
Administration Costs (exclusive of Vat, if reclaimed)		
Insurance cover (against claims in respect of injury or damage to personal property)		0.00
Advertising		1,731.54
Stationery and Printing		14,385.00
Registers		500.00
Postage (poll cards, proxy poll cards, postal votes, staffing, other)		0.00
Use of Premises		27,610.31
Transportation		260.00
Equipment		6,634.77
Materials for verification and count		1,715.69
Deputy Returning Officer - National Insurance contributions and Superannuation contributions		0.00
Assistant Deputy Returning Officer(s) - National Insurance contributions and Superannuation contributions		0.00
Administration Costs Total		52,837.31
	SUB TOTAL	94,995.62
Postage (exclusive of Vat, if reclaimed)		
Candidates' Election Addresses		64,505.63
Candidates' Election Postage Costs Total		64,505.63
EONI Direct Costs		170,238.92
	GRAND TOTAL	329,740.17