
REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 15
DATE OF MEETING:	3RD JULY 2008	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	CONSULTATION PAPER – MOVING THE DATE OF LOCAL ELECTIONS TO THE SAME DATE AS EUROPEAN ELECTIONS IN 2009	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That any comments on the Consultation Paper be forwarded to the Department for Communities and Local Government prior to the closing date of 11th August 2008.

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 To consider a proposal to change the date of the English local elections from Thursday, 7th May 2009 to Thursday, 4th June 2009, the likely day of the European Parliamentary election.

4.0 Detail

4.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government has invited views on a proposal to change the date of the English local elections from Thursday, 7th May 2009 to Thursday, 4th June 2009, the likely day of the European Parliamentary election.

4.2 The relevant sections of the Consultation Paper are attached at Annexe 'A' and in particular, views are sought on the four questions set out in paragraph 28 of the Paper.

4.3 In preparing the Consultation Paper, the Department had regard to the experience in 2004 when local and European Parliamentary elections were held on the same date. The turnout at those European elections was significantly higher than in previous years, up from 24% in 1999 to 38.5%. The Electoral Commission concluded in 2004 that the combination of the elections was an important factor in the improved turnout.

It also commented that before the next European Parliamentary elections in 2009, further consideration would need to be given to the potential impact of the combination of elections.

5.0 Financial / Corporate Implications

5.1 A combined election would result in cost savings. However, it should be noted that the costs of both elections are rechargeable to the Government and the County Council respectively.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 A combined election would entail voters visiting their respective polling station once, rather than twice within a short period.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 May 2008 Consultation Paper