

additional papers 2

Executive Committee

Wed 26th Aug
2009
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

Access to Information - Your Rights

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect lists of background papers used in the preparation of public reports.
- Access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Access to a public register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc.
- A reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports relating to items to be considered in public must be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council and its Committees etc.
- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
- Access to a summary of the rights of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees etc. and to inspect and copy documents.
- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines “Key Decisions” unless the business would disclose confidential or “exempt” information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the Executive Committee are Key Decisions.
- (Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council’s Website:
www.redditchbc.gov.uk

If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact

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8. Constitution - New Executive Arrangements / Whole Council Elections.

(Pages 278 - 279)

Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services

To consider a new form of governance for the Council's Executive arrangements and to consider opting for whole Council elections instead of partial elections (elections by thirds).

(Appendix 1 attached)

All Wards

Executive**APPENDIX 1**

Committee

26th August 2009

SUMMARY / COMPARISON OF POTENTIAL COSTS**ELECTION BY THIRDS**

**(9 or 10 seats contested each time – annual elections /
with County Council Elections in 4th Year)**

Each 10 Ward election – approx. £65,000 - £80,000 x2

One 9 Ward election – approx. £60,000 - £75,000 x1

Total therefore in round terms £200,000 - £250,000

Notes: Costs will vary in detail subject to which precise wards are electing, how many Portakabin Polling Stations are required, etc.

ALL-OUT ELECTIONS

(all 29 seats contested each time – elections every 4th year)

Total approx £80,000 - £100,000

(MAYORAL) REFERENDUM

A full, formal, referendum would cost essentially the same as an all-out election if run locally on a 'normal election' basis.

Other options might be available, such as an all-postal Referendum, (such as the Council's Mayoral Referendum in 2001). Further details and options would be reported and appropriate funding and other approvals sought, if a Referendum was required in due course.

General Notes:

1. All the above costings exclude the baseline staffing and other costs the Council / Electoral Shared Service would normally have to account for annually, regardless of the Council's choice of electoral arrangements.
2. Some of the above costs may sometimes be offset when local elections are combined with other, externally funded, elections.

