



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Election Accounts
Date:	Friday, 12 th December, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (ext 6314)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	There is a requirement for the Election Accounts for the running of the Local Government Elections in May 2014 to be notified to the Council. The statement of expenditure in respect of the Elections which were held earlier in the year is set out below.
1.2	It should be noted that the elections in May, 2014 were joint elections where both the European Parliament Election and the Local Election were held on the same day.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The total cost of the Elections was £618,114 as compared with a cost of £343,578 for the Local Elections in 2011, an increase of £274,536. This increase is due principally to the fact that in 2011 the costs were split 3 ways – for a European Parliament Election, a Local Election and a Referendum on the voting system for Parliamentary elections with the Electoral Office being responsible for 2 of the 3 – whereas in 2014 the costs were for a joint election with the Council being responsible for half the costs. In addition, the Local Elections in May 2014 were to the new Belfast District Council which has a significantly larger population. There were also 10 District Electoral Areas in 2014 compared to 9 in 2011 and this necessitated the holding of an additional count.

2.2	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Postage to Candidates' Election addresses</td> <td>£252,845</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EONI Postage cost</td> <td>£34,750</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Registers</td> <td>£675</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advertising</td> <td>£11,643</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stationery/Printing</td> <td>£17,452</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use of Polling Premises</td> <td>£3,293</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipment</td> <td>£264</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hire of Equipment</td> <td>£5,727</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport and Travel</td> <td>£6,412</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballot Papers</td> <td>£29,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Count/Verification Staff</td> <td>£103,825</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poll Staff</td> <td>£151,728</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>£618,114</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	£	Postage to Candidates' Election addresses	£252,845	EONI Postage cost	£34,750	Registers	£675	Advertising	£11,643	Stationery/Printing	£17,452	Use of Polling Premises	£3,293	Equipment	£264	Hire of Equipment	£5,727	Transport and Travel	£6,412	Ballot Papers	£29,500	Count/Verification Staff	£103,825	Poll Staff	£151,728	TOTAL	£618,114
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2.3	I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those Departments of the Council and the staff without whose help the successful running of the local elections would not have been possible.																												

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The cost of running the elections is provided for in a sinking election fund.

4	Equality Implications
4.1	None associated with this report

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to note the statement of expenditure for the Elections.