

Special Meeting of the Board

Costs relating to issues arising out of Local Government Boundary changes

23rd March 2023

Background.

As Board members are aware, Local Government Boundary changes which come into force this year mean that the boundaries of 2 of the 7 MHDC wards which vote to appoint a trustee are no longer congruent with the boundaries of the old Malvern Urban District Council, which are referred to in the 1924 Act as the basis for the electoral area.

The Board approved a budget for legal fees of £15,000 in September last year to deal with the ramification of this change.

Present Situation.

Legal costs invoiced to date amount to £9,686.

Board members will recall that in the event of there being no amendment to the Trust's governing legislation in time for the 2023 elections, the District Council had indicated that it believes on this occasion the Trust's elections could be run on the basis of the old boundaries.

It has been suggested that the Trust should take advice on the risks associated with this (both for the Trust and the Returning Officer). We have received a costs estimate of around £2,200 to £2,800 for the advice. It is possible that the cost could be more or less depending on time taken.

The last invoice from the Trust's Parliamentary Agent was for the work carried out in February. Further work has been undertaken this month and total costs will shortly be approaching £15,000.

It is almost inevitable that further work will be required.

Recommendation

That the Board agree to increase the budget for legal costs to £20,000.

Susan Satchell
Secretary to the Board
15th March 2023