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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Full Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>27 November 2023</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Paula Harrison</b>		
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Swindon Borough Council Elections Cycle</b>		

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**1. Background**

- 1.1 In October 2023, Swindon Borough Council voted to change its election cycle from the voting by thirds model to whole council elections from May 2026. A consultation document is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.2 Swindon Borough Council has resolved to seek views as to whether it should use its power under Section 53 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act) to harmonise those parish and town council elections with the new borough election cycle.

**53 Power of council to alter years of ordinary elections of parish councillors**

(1)This section applies if a council passes a resolution under this Chapter.

**(2)The council may by order make provision that changes the years in which the ordinary elections of parish councillors for any parish situated in the council's area are to be held.**

(3)The power may only be exercised so as to secure that those elections are to be held in years in which ordinary elections of district councillors for a ward in which any part of the parish is situated are to be held.

- 1.3 Swindon Borough Council would seek to reduce the term of office for those parish and town councils currently scheduled to hold elections in 2027 to a three year term of office (2023-2026).

**2. Impact on West Swindon**

- 2.1 Councillors should be aware that for West Swindon Parish Council aligning with Swindon Borough Council would result in a reduced term for the existing Council by one year as the next election is scheduled for 2027.
- 2.2 There is a financial benefit to align with the Swindon Borough cycle of elections as this reduces the cost of an election every election for West Swindon residents as based on estimates from Swindon Borough Council:

<i>Estimated cost of joint election with SBC</i>	<i>Estimated cost of single West Parish election</i>	<i>Cost saving per election for West Parish</i>
£ 25,011.00	£ 40,497.00	£ 15,486.00

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Councillors consider its response to the consultation and either confirms that it will support a change to align with Swindon Borough Council elections or whether it resolves to continue on its existing election cycle.