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| REPORT TO: | FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM: 12 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 18TH FEBRUARY 2003 | DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER | OPEN |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895) | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | 'ELECTION TIMETABLES IN THE UK' - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT | REF: HP/SJS |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | ALL | TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM06 |

1.0 Recommendation

1.1 That the Members consider the consultation paper from the Electoral Commission entitled 'Election Timetables in the UK'.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To advise the Members of the consultation paper and seek their comments.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The consultation document 'Election Timetables in the UK' is part of a wider programme of policy reviews which arose out of the Commission's report on the 2001 General Election. The aim is to seek views on whether certain adjustments to election timetables might contribute to the development of a more efficient, effective and practical system of electoral administration. Members of Council have been circulated with the document and their comments requested on all of the issues raised, with particular reference to those in chapter 4 of the paper, which concerns the desirability or otherwise of having greater consistency of length across election timetables as well as greater consistency with respect to timetable deadlines. Members have been requested to respond to this document by 24th February 2003 and the Council will prepare a collective response to the Electoral Commission. The final report from the review is expected to be published in May.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 Please see attached consultation paper.

6.0 Background Papers

6.1 None.

