



AGENDA ITEM 4

CENTRAL SCOTLAND VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Subject: ELECTORAL REPORT
Meeting: CENTRAL SCOTLAND VALUATION JOINT BOARD
Date: 17TH JUNE, 2011
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to keep the Board advised of progress in electoral matters.

2. 5TH MAY ELECTIONS

- 2.1 All absent vote lists, registers and statistics were produced and supplied on time to the Returning Officers and their printers.
- 2.2 Poll Cards were issued on behalf of the Returning Officers on 23rd March. The printers, Adare issued the poll cards and postal poll cards and the ERO issued the proxy, postal proxy and anonymous elector poll cards.
- 2.3 Analysis of the poll cards returned by Royal Mail showed that out of the seventy one returned, sixteen had already been deleted from the Register due to information received after the data files were sent to the printers and thirty four were for students at the Halls of Residence at Stirling University. Such a small returned number from the 211,000 issued helps to confirm the accuracy of the Register of Electors.

3. POLLING DAY

- 3.1 Unfortunately we had six clerical errors granted on polling day. They were as a result of wrong or incomplete information having been received or interpreted by ERO staff. All were allowed to vote on polling day.
- 3.2 Only three electors applied for and were granted emergency proxy applications to vote on May 5th.

- 3.3 We received over one hundred and thirty calls on polling day from electors or polling station staff enquiring why someone was not registered to vote at their current address. The vast majority had been deleted from the Register of Electors in January and February as they had failed to return the annual voter registration form for at least two years. Notices of Deletion were posted to each when they were deleted. Electoral legislation only authorises retaining an elector on the register for a limited time, in the absence of a registration form or other definite information.

4. RISK REGISTER

- 4.1 No issues arose from the updated Risk Register which we had prepared prior to the elections. We will review the register prior to future elections.

5. TRAINING

- 5.1 The Depute ERO assisted Returning Officer staff at all their polling staff training sessions in Stirling and provided text for the Clackmannanshire and Falkirk training sessions.

6. POST ELECTION

- 6.1 A meeting was held with Registration Officers' staff on 11th May which confirmed that they were appreciative of the service provided to them throughout the elections.

7. ROLLING REGISTRATION

- 7.1 Details of the changes in council tax liability are received from each council every month and electors no longer resident are deleted and new forms issued as soon as possible. As May 10th was the last date for changes effective 1st June, staff had to start making changes to the Register from the information received prior to May 5th to ensure the changes were updated in time. This was particularly important in the Bo'ness area which had a by-election scheduled for June 9th.

8. ANNUAL CANVASS

- 8.1 Preparation for the annual autumn canvass started last year, following the 2010 canvass but a printer was only appointed on 23rd May. After checking availability and costs of other printers it was decided to again use Adare who have been our printers for at least the last four years.

- 8.2 Following the success of our pre-canvass email pilot scheme last year we are implementing a pre-canvass email to all electors who have provided an email address to us. If they respond indicating no change by email, telephone or text before we print the canvass forms a saving of up to 50p per address can be made.

8.3 We have requested information and assistance from Returning Officer staff in publicising this convenient option throughout each council area, with some limited success. It is an initiative that is expected to grow as electors become more confident with the technology involved.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Valuation Joint Board note this Report.

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Depute Electoral Registration Officer