



AGENDA ITEM 9

CENTRAL SCOTLAND VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Subject: ELECTORAL REPORT
Meeting: CENTRAL SCOTLAND VALUATION JOINT BOARD
Date: 22nd JUNE, 2012
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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. 3rd 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 30th March. The printers, Adare issued the poll cards and postal poll cards to TNT and the ERO issued the proxy, postal proxy and anonymous elector poll cards direct to Royal Mail.
- 2.3 Analysis of the poll cards returned by Royal Mail showed that the vast majority had already been deleted from the Register due to information received after the data files were sent to the printers.
With less than 200 poll cards returned from the 215,800 issued this helps to confirm the accuracy of the Register of Electors.

3. POLLING DAY

- 3.1 Unfortunately we had one clerical error granted on polling day. It was a case of deleting an elector with the same name as his father from a notification of death when the father was not registered. The elector was allowed to vote on polling day.
- 3.2 Only four electors applied for and were granted emergency proxy applications to vote on May 3rd.

- 3.3 We received only 77 telephone calls from electors or polling station staff on polling day. 30 were confirmation that they were registered, 29 had their polling station address confirmed and 13 were advised that they were not eligible to vote as they were not registered. 2 electors wanted a future postal vote, 1 lady wanted a lift to the polling station and 2 electors were unhappy with the STV system.

4. RISK REGISTER

- 4.1 Our main difficulties this year concerned problems with our server which failed on 18th April for approx. two and a half hours. When the server re-booted we were still able to supply the postal vote data to the Returning Officers and printers that evening.
We will be replacing the server this year and will be updating our election procedures and risk register

5. TRAINING

- 5.1 The Depute ERO assisted Returning Officer staff at all their polling staff training sessions in Falkirk and The ERO and Team Leader assisted with the polling staff training in Stirling. Text was provided to Clackmannanshire for their staff to provide the training.

6. POST ELECTION

- 6.1 A meeting was hosted at Hillside House with Registration Officers' staff and IT staff attending on 16th May which confirmed that they appreciated the services provided to them throughout the election period

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 on May 3rd to ensure the changes were updated in time. Returning Officer staff were advised prior to changes being made. Changes to the register will continue to be updated monthly until 1st September (10th August Cut-off)

8. ANNUAL CANVASS

- 8.1 Preparation for the annual autumn canvass starts following the previous canvass .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 five years.
- 8.2 We started this year's canvass by emailing over 200 households recorded as 2nd homes or long term empties and over 39,000 emails were sent on 15th June to electors who have provided an email address to us. In 2011 after a reminder email was sent over 14,000 responses were received prior to printing any forms, resulting in a saving in postage and printing of over £7000
- 8.3 We have again requested assistance from Communication staff and Returning Officer staff in each council publicising this convenient option throughout each council area, with some limited success.
- 8.4 We expect to post approximately 100,000 forms on 3rd September to the households who have still to respond. A reminder will be posted in mid October to those who have not responded.
As many addresses as possible will be visited by temporary staff where no response has been received and no-one is registered prior to end November. Following checks against other records, such as council tax, landlord's letting information etc. telephone calls, personalised emails or letters will be issued to unconfirmed electors including ultimately a deletion notice or a letter threatening deletion from the register.

9. RECOMMENDATION

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

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Depute Electoral Registration Officer