



AGENDA ITEM 10

CENTRAL SCOTLAND VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Subject: Electoral Registration Update
Meeting: Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board
Date: 1st February 2019
Author: Pete Wildman, Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report is to update the Board on Electoral Registration work that has been carried out since September 2018.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on ongoing and future work

2.0 REGISTER OF ELECTORS

- 2.1 The new Register was published on 1st December 2018 and there were 229,584 Local Government Electors on the Register. This is a slight reduction on last year where there were 230,435 Local Government Electors as at 1st December.
- 2.2 The annual canvass was completed on time ahead of the publication of the new Register on 1st December. The first issue of Household Enquiry Forms (HEFs) took place in early July with the issue of 140,585 forms each with an accompanying pre-paid reply envelope. This was followed by a reminder HEF issue in August, with door to door visits commencing in early September and a final issue of HEFs to non-responders in November.
- 2.3 The purpose of the HEF is to establish what changes have occurred in each household. It is not a registration form. If new names are added to the form we have to individually invite the new people to register. If names are scored off then we have to make further enquires before a person is removed from the Register.



- 2.4 The letter accompanying the HEF was updated in line with revised Electoral Commission templates and the change in messaging resulted in channel shift to online/phone/text responses. At the end of the canvass we had 50719 responses via this medium compared to 39112 last year an increase of 22.8%. The overall return rate was similar to last year.
- 2.5 Six temporary canvassers were appointed to supplement our two permanent canvassers to carry out the door to door visits to non-responding households. For the first time the canvassers used tablets rather than paper forms. This proved effective with approximately 9,500 responses via the tablets. It is therefore intended to adopt this approach again for the 2019 canvass
- 2.6 Invitations to Register (ITR) were issued as a result of the information being returned from the Household Enquiry Forms. Where possible any ITRs are issued by email which reduces postage costs and also encourages an online response. ITRs are not only issued at canvass time but are issued throughout the year as data sources such as Council Tax information identify new occupiers. Like the HEFs we are obliged to issue three ITRs and a personal visit must be carried out if no response has been received.

3.0 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 3.1 The team worked closely with the University of Stirling to promote registration amongst students with a concerted campaign during November. We also attended events at the three Forth Valley College campuses and plan to attend similar events in February 2019.
- 3.2 We have received details of all eligible pupils at the schools in the area and those who are not already on the Register have been invited to register.
- 3.3 Regular meetings continue to be held with the election teams from the three councils. Whilst there are no planned elections it is important to maintain contact in case of an unscheduled electoral event.
- 3.4 We also continue to visit care homes on a regular basis to ensure new residents are encouraged to register to vote



4.0 FUTURE WORK

- 4.1 The UK and Scottish Governments continue to progress their plans to reform the annual canvass. The Scottish Government are currently consulting on extending the franchise to some prisoners.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Members are invited to consider and comment on this report.

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Pete Wildman
Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer
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