



Agenda Item 11

CENTRAL SCOTLAND VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Subject: Electoral Registration Update
Meeting: Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board
Date: 27th September 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 February 2019.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on ongoing and future work

2.0 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

- 2.1 On 8 April 2019, the UK Government laid an Order, effective from 10 April 2019 stating that the date of the European Parliamentary Election would be 23 May 2019. On 7 May 2019, the UK Government confirmed that the UK would definitely be participating in the European Parliamentary Election on 23 May 2019.
- 2.2 The final electorate in the Central Scotland area for this election was 223,210 of which 30,773 electors opted to vote by post. There were 260 Overseas Electors and 1496 EU Electors who had opted to vote at this election in the UK.
- 2.3 On 12 April 2019 we wrote to all EU electors who were on the register at that time, advising that if they wished to vote in the election in the UK then they had to complete and return a UC1/EC6 form by 7 May 2019. A form was enclosed with the letter along with a pre-paid reply envelope. Thereafter we proactively contacted new EU applicants who registered to advise that they had to also complete a UC1/EC6 by 7 May 2019.

3.0 ANNUAL CANVASS 2019

- 3.1 The Household Enquiry Forms were issued to 141,434 residential properties across the registration area at the start of July.



- 3.2 We used the same style of accompanying letter as last year as this had been successful in achieving channel shift in responses. A message was also added to the envelope this year
- 3.3 62,728 reminder forms were issued and as at 12 September 2019 we have 41,305 properties to visit. The response rates have been in line with last year. Online responses as at 12 September were 43,500 compared to 39,021 at this stage last year.
- 3.4 Four temporary canvassers have been appointed to supplement our permanent canvassers to complete the property visits by the end of November. They will use tablet based software to carry out this task as this proved successful last year.
- 3.5 Invitations to Register are being issued on a regular basis as new names are added to Household Enquiry Forms. We will also invite School pupils and University students to register.

4.0 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 The team will work closely with the University of Stirling to promote registration amongst students and team members attended the annual Fresher's event. We will also attend events at the three Forth Valley College campuses.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 We also continue to visit care homes on a regular basis to ensure new residents are encouraged to register to vote

5.0 FUTURE WORK

- 5.1 The UK and Scottish Governments continue to progress their plans to reform the annual canvass.
- 5.2 The Scottish Government have laid a Bill to extend the franchise to all people legally resident in Scotland and to prisoners serving a sentence of twelve months or less.
- 5.3 The Scottish Government have laid the Referendums (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament. This Bill sets a framework for any Scottish referendums.



- 5.4 The Scottish Government have also laid a third Bill in The Scottish Parliament which deals with electoral reform. It contains provisions to fix the age at which an attainer can go on the Scottish Local Government Register at 14 years old.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

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

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Pete Wildman
Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer
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