

## **VJB20. Electoral Registration Update**

The Board considered a report by the Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer which provided an update on Electoral Registration work that had been carried out since February 2021.

The report also provided an update on ongoing and future work.

The HNL proved highly effective in alerting people to the Scottish Parliament Election and encouraged early applications to register to vote and for a postal vote. There had been a significant increase across Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling in % of electorate with a postal vote for the Scottish Parliament Election.

In terms of the Annual Canvass, little change had been made however, with greater time this year, it was expected than an evaluation on how improvements could be made would be undertaken.

Following a question regarding the development of a website dedicated to CSVJB, the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer explained that it was an ongoing task. However, if individuals had questions, they would be able to do contact the CSVJB through the SAA website.

The Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer then confirmed that it would be simple for the individuals to return to in-person voting from postal voting if they wished. It would require the individual to alert the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer by letter of their request up to 11 days prior to the election. If the individual did not meet this deadline, they still had the ability to fill in their postal vote and hand it in to their polling station on polling day. He stated that many have applied for permanent postal votes therefore the figures anticipated for Local Council Election in 2022 had little change.

The Board questioned if the public would still be encouraged to apply for postal votes for the forthcoming Local Council Election in 2022, Pete Wildman explained that a Household Notification Letter was planned for February 2022 – this was funded by residual funding for electoral registration matters given by the Scottish Government in 2021.

The Board sought for more information on the extent of the impact the Household Notification Letter had on turnout, Mr Wildman explained the numbers had increased significantly in comparison from the January 2021 postal vote applications to the February/March 2021 update after the letter had been distributed.

### **Decision**

**The Board commented on this report.**