

Agenda Item 8

Electoral Registration Update



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CENTRAL SCOTLAND VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Subject: Electoral Registration Update
Meeting: Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board
Date: 4th March 2022
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 2021.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on ongoing and future work

2.0 ANNUAL CANVASS 2021

- 2.1 This was the second canvass to be delivered under the new canvass legislation which is less prescriptive than previously and allows the ERO greater flexibility to tailor the annual canvass
- 2.2 Unlike the first canvass in 2020, where strict Covid measures were in place, we were able to carry out house to house enquiries in the second canvass. This provided us with a useful alternative to telephone contact.
- 2.3 The canvass process involved us matching the register against DWP records and local data sets, where all electors in a property matched against another database, the property was put into "Route 1", this was the majority of properties. Where one or more electors did not match, the property was put into "Route 2". For larger type establishments such as Care Homes and University Accommodation these were put into "Route 3".
- 2.4 For properties in "Route 1" where we held an email address for one or more electors we issued an email asking them to confirm that the details we hold are correct and to notify us of any changes. Where we didn't hold an email address for any of the electors or we didn't get a response to our email we issued a paper communication advising who is registered at the property and asking people to only respond if there



has been a change. We did not carry out any follow up activity for properties in Route 1.

- 2.5 For those properties in Route 2 we issued a letter asking them to go online and confirm if the details we held were correct and to notify us of any changes. For those that did not respond we issued a full canvass form. We also attempted to contact people by telephone and/or house to house enquiries
- 2.6 For those properties in Route 3 we made direct contact with the organisations responsible for the properties and obtained the information directly rather than via a property communication.
- 2.7 The table below sets out a comparison of metrics between the canvass in 2020 and the canvass in 2021.

	2020	2021
DWP Match Rate	82.70%	73.20%
Match Rate Post Local Data Matching	78.10%	75.60%
Number of Properties in Route 1	111,510	108,983
Number of Properties in Route 2	31,250	34,589
Number of Properties in Route 3	2304	1819
e-comms used in Route 1	Y	Y
Response rate to e-comms (%)	N/A	28.8
Route 2 overall response rate (%)	47	58

- 2.8 The updated Register of Electors was published on 1 December 2021. At which point there were 225,831 electors on the Parliamentary Register and 236,730 electors on the Local Government Register.

3.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2022

- 3.1 Work is well underway to prepare for the local elections on 5 May 2022. We have issued a Household Notification Letter to every household in our area. The letters were issued on 2 February and set out who was registered to vote and who had a postal vote. The letter also explained how to register to vote and how to apply for a postal vote and the deadlines for doing so.



- 3.2 This is the second election we have carried out this exercise and it has proved successful again in promoting awareness of the elections and encouraging people to register and apply for a postal vote if they want one.
- 3.3 The deadline for registering to vote is 18 April 2022, which is Easter Monday, the team will be working, as required, over the Easter weekend, with the exception of Easter Sunday, to process applications and answer any queries.

4.0 OTHER WORK

- 4.1 We have promoted the Electoral Commission's "Welcome to your Vote Week" in January 2022, which was aimed at young electors
- 4.2 We will also be promoting the Electoral Commission's "Welcome to your Vote Day" on 10 March 2022 aimed at encouraging foreign nationals to register to vote.
- 4.3 We are working with Stirling Council to deliver the National Park Elections in June 2022 and with Falkirk Council in respect of their Community Council elections.
- 4.4 Through the SAA we are working with the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities as they begin preparation work for the implementation of the measures contained within the UK Government's Elections Bill. This Bill contains several provisions that will impact on our work namely;
- Voter ID for UK Parliamentary Elections.
 - Extension of the Overseas Electors franchise to remove the 15 year limit.
 - Online Absent Vote Applications for UK Parliamentary Elections
 - Postal Votes for UK Parliamentary Elections will expire after three years unlike applications for the Local Government register which will remain indefinite but with a signature refresh required every five year.
 - For a UK Parliament Elections a person will only be able to be a proxy for no more than two people even if they are family members. Although a person will be able to be a proxy for up to four Overseas or Service Electors at a UK Parliamentary Election.
- 4.5 The UK Government has indicated that they anticipate that applications for Voter ID cards will commence in December 2022. Applications are to be made to the Electoral Registration Officer. Electors will only need a Voter ID card, if they don't have another form



of photo ID e.g. passport, driver's license, national entitlement card. Research by the UK Government indicates that only 2% of the electorate won't have a form of photo ID and will need to apply for a Voter ID card. In Central Scotland that is approximately 4,500 electors.

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
Date: 4th March 2022