

**To the Chair and Members of the
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE**

**MAYORAL AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS –
4TH JUNE 2009 – EVALUATION REPORT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Mayoral and European Elections took place on the 4th June 2009 the purpose of this report is to provide an evaluation of the elections and provide an opportunity for members to discuss issues arising from them. Any issues identified at the meeting will be incorporated into Service Development Plans as part of ongoing improvement.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Committee is asked to approve the report and make any additional comments it wishes to make in relation to the contents.

BACKGROUND

3. Previously it was reported that delays had arisen in the implementation of amendments to the European Parliamentary Election Regulations and the Returning Officers Fees and Charges Order which made planning for the elections more difficult. Once these documents had been finalised it was possible to complete and implement planning more effectively and arrangements for the elections progressed smoothly.
4. In accordance with the discussions which took place with members separate postal packs for each election issuing approximately 110,000 packs in total (based on the eligible electorate). In total approximately 66% of postal votes were returned for the two elections which is slightly above the anticipated range of 60%.
5. Inevitably particularly where large volumes of additional mail are despatched and delivered over a short period there were instances where problems were reported mainly of packs lost or undelivered in the post. However the number of problems reported was very small and even having made allowances for cases where the voter did not report the problem it is estimated that 99.5% of postal votes were delivered successfully.

6. The Elections in 2006 and been established as a benchmark year as the first year following the electoral pilots and the growth in postal voting that a baseline for turnout can be measured. Since that time turnout has been around 35% this years elections have seen that trend continuing with a turnout of 35.8%
7. The opening of postal votes and the operation of polling stations operated generally smoothly. Checks of the personal identifiers on postal votes were undertaken in accordance with statutory requirements with 100% checks being completed. A visit by Observers from the Electoral Commission took place during this period and positive feedback was received in respect of both aspects.
8. The Counts for the Mayoral election held on Friday the 5th June and the European Parliamentary Election held on Sunday 7th June 2009 both operated successfully with results being declared within the anticipated timescales. Again the Observers from the Electoral Commission were in attendance and gave positive feedback on the proceedings.
9. The delivery of the election is a major project which is delivered by a small core team with support from a number of other areas and individual employees who undertake various duties without which this complex undertaking could not take place. The tight and strict statutory timetable create add to the complexities of the project and this year's elections were further complicated by having two elections with differing voting systems.
10. The results for both elections have been published on the Council's website and are attached as appendix A for the information of members.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

11. The elections are a statutory duty and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The provisions for the conduct of the Mayoral election are contained in the Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 and for the European Parliamentary Election in the European Parliamentary Election Regulations 2004 as amended by the European parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Regulations 2009. These regulations set detailed requirements for the conduct of the elections subject to the requirements of primary legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The cost of the Mayoral election is met by the Council whilst funding for the European parliamentary Election is met by the Government. The combination of the elections and the sharing of costs will reduce the overall cost burden of the elections to both the Council and the Government. Provision has been made within the 2009 budget for the cost of the Mayoral election.

REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTORS

Tony Machin, Electoral and Democratic Renewal Consultant
Corporate Governance
Tel: 01302 734649
E-mail: tony.machin@doncaster.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

File – European Parliamentary Election – 4th June 2009;
Mayoral Election – 4th June 2009

**PAUL HART
MANAGING DIRECTOR AND
RETURNING OFFICER**

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF RESULTS

Mayoral Election

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Votes Cast</u>
Peter Davies – English Democrats	16961 (1 st Pref.) + 8383 (2 nd Pref.) Total 25344 Elected
Stuart Exelby – Community Group	2152
Michael J. Felse – Independent	2051
Sandra Holland – The Labour Party	16549
Michael T. Maye - Independent	17150(1 st Pref.) + 7840 (2 nd Pref.) Total 24990
Dave Owen – BNP	8175
Jonathan Wood – The Conservative Party	12198

European Parliamentary Election

(Six seats in Yorkshire and Humber Region)

Party	Seats	Candidate
BNP	1	Andrew H. W. Brons (6th Seat)
Christian Party 'Proclaiming Christ's Lordship	0	
Conservative Party	2	Edward H. C. McMillan-Scott (1st Seat) Timothy J. R. Kirkhope (5th Seat)
English Democrats Party	0	
Jury Team	0	
Liberal Democrats	1	Diana P. Wallis (4th Seat)
No2EU: Yes to Democracy	0	
Pro Democracy: Libertas.eu	0	
Socialist Labour Party	0	
The Green Party	0	
The Labour Party	1	Linda McAvan (2nd Seat)
United Kingdom Independence Party	1	Godfrey William Bloom (3rd Seat)