

To all Members of the

ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Notice is given that a Meeting of the above Committee
is to be held as follows:

VENUE Room 007a - Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU
DATE: Tuesday, 12th July, 2016
TIME: 10.00 am

Items for Discussion:

PageNo.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To consider the extent, if any, to which the public and press are to be excluded from the meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest, if any.
4. Minutes of the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee Meeting held on 15th March 2016. 1 - 4
- A. Reports where the public and press may not be excluded.**
5. Electoral Services Update on Key Issues. 5 - 10
6. Update on Individual Electoral Registration and the Annual Canvass. 11 - 16

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Issued on: Monday 4th July 2016

Governance Officer for this meeting: Jonathan Goodrum, Senior Governance Officer.
Tel. 01302 736709

**MEMBERS OF THE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES
COMMITTEE (11)**

Chair – Councillor Phil Cole

Vice-Chair – Councillor James Hart

Councillor Nick Allen	Councillor John McHale
Councillor Sean Gibbons	Councillor Jane Nightingale
Councillor Pat Haith	Councillor Kevin Rodgers
Councillor Charlie Hogarth	Councillor Sue Wilkinson
Councillor Majid Khan	

Agenda Item 4.

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2016

A MEETING of the ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE was held in Room 007 B - CIVIC OFFICE on TUESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2016, at 10.00 am.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Phil Cole
Vice-Chair - Councillor James Hart

Councillors Pat Haith, Charlie Hogarth, John McHale, Jane Nightingale, Kevin Rodgers, Clive Stone and Sue Wilkinson

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sean Gibbons and Majid Khan

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

12 MINUTES OF THE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13 ELECTORAL SERVICES UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES

The Committee received a report updating Members on the preparations for Police and Crime Commissioner Election on 5th May, 2016 and the EU Referendum on 23rd June, 2016. Details of those preparations were outlined within paragraphs 5 to 14 of the report.

Members were also advised that a new application had been launched called 'Find my Polling Station' which had proved to be very useful. The link to the application would also be available via the Council Website and attached to the EU Referendum Poll Cards. It was noted that the link would also be forwarded via email to all Members following the meeting.

Following the update, Members raised queries with regard to the following:-

- What the deadline was for requesting postal votes – It was advised that this information would be emailed to Members following the meeting

- Whether the Polling Station names could be added to the E-Register – It was noted that this had been requested with Express and confirmation would be sought following the meeting.
- Clarity was sought as to why the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) ballot could not be counted on the Thursday night. It was advised that Sheffield and Rotherham Councils were having all out Local elections and Barnsley were electing one third of their local members and so would have to spread their elections resources. Inevitably verification and counting will take longer in those authorities than in Doncaster. It was noted that once the ballot was verified, staff would be allowed to leave.
- Clarity was sought regarding who would be allowed to attend the EU Referendum Count and whether any discretion could be made to invite Councillors. It was advised that Leeds Council would determine attendees and the question of attendance of Councillors would be put to them and Members would receive a response in due course.

The Chair and Members of the Committee expressed their thanks to Trina Barber as Interim Team Leader for her fantastic performance and the Elections Team for all their efforts.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

14 INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION (IER) PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered a report updating Members on Individual Electoral Registration, annual Canvass and the publishing of the full register on 1st December, 2015.

The current position in respect of the recent and current activity was identified within paragraphs 5 to 9 of the report. Members were also presented with a breakdown of the current electorate compared to the published register from 1st December, 2015 which identified a further increase.

Following the introduction of the report, Councillor John McHale commended Trina Barber and the Elections Team for their performance and the way in which the reports were presented using Pie-Charts and Graphs which provided the information to Members at a glance.

Clarity was sought with regard to empty properties and new build properties and whether any progress was being made to occupy the properties and get them onto the register. It was advised that the Empty Properties team do provide records and the team were kept informed of these. It was also noted that the Team also liaised with Council Tax colleagues with regard to empty properties. It was suggested that further information be sought and forwarded to Members following the meeting. The Chair also asked whether the team were able to provide an estimate of turnover on how many people were new to the electorate for each ward.

In relation to schools and colleges, it was advised that the Team were speaking to schools and seeking agreement to place advertisement within the registration documents and speaking to Children's Services who go out to schools to advise. The

Chair stated that the responses from schools/colleges had been disappointing to date but that perhaps they could be approached again in the future.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

15 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Committee considered a report which highlighted that on the 24th February, 2016, the independent Boundary Commission for England began redrawing the map of parliamentary constituency boundaries in England taking information from the published register of electors on 1st December, 2015.

Following the publication of the register on the 1st December, 2015, Doncaster's electorate stood at 216,798. However, the Boundary Commission did not include the EU Nationals which meant that they all fell under the minimum requirement. However, this was not to say that Doncaster would lose an MP, it could mean that the boundaries are extended out of Doncaster to increase the number of electors within the constituency to meet the requirements or to make up another constituency to another borough.

It was reported that the Boundary Commission were currently looking at initial proposals which were expected to be published in September, 2016. The publication of those proposals would commence a 12 week consultation period during in which they would invite comments on the proposals to capture the views and knowledge of local residents. It was noted that the Commission must make its final recommendations to Parliament in 2018. Members would be provided with further information when it was available.

A brief discussion took place on what could be envisaged for Doncaster but it was felt that it would be better to wait for the further information before making any comments. The Chair highlighted that the process was the same as the previous review and the Boundary Commission would take into account similar communities. It was also suggested that regions could be broken down into sub-regions to make areas more manageable but this may also limit the options of borrowing a ward.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CHAIR:_____

DATE:_____

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12th July 2016

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

ELECTORAL SERVICES UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update to Members on recent Elections that have taken place since the last meeting.
 - Police and Crime Commissioner Election - 5th May 2016
 - Edenthorpe & Kirk Sandall By-Election – 5th May 2016
 - Hatfield Town Council – Dunscroft Ward By-Election – 5th May 2016
 - EU Referendum - 23rd June 2016
 - Bawtry Town Council – 30th June 2016
 - Thorne – Moorends Town Council – Thorne Town Ward – 30th June 2016

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. Having accessible and well organised elections is key to public engagement in the democratic process. Elections are the cornerstone of our democratic process and are important to all of our residents. Elections give the electorate the opportunity to hold politicians to account and shape the future direction of national and local government. All six Elections were a huge success and excellent feedback has been received.

BACKGROUND

4. The Terms of Reference of this Committee provide an overview of Electoral Services issues. Set out below is the current position in respect of recent and current activity.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTION – 5TH MAY 2016

5. The Election for a South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner took place on Thursday 5th May 2016. Barnsley Council was the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) in charge for South Yorkshire and collated the votes given from the four Local Authorities.
6. Verification took place after the close of poll at 10.00pm, the receipt of the 158 ballot boxes was smooth and quick with the last box delivered by 22:55. This meant that any postal vote packs handed in at the polling station and brought to the count by presiding officers were processed quickly and back to the Count in order to verify by 23:20.

7. The counting of votes commenced on Friday 6th May and the four Local Authorities votes were then collated together - Alan Billings, the Labour Party candidate, has been elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire.
8. 43,915 residents of 218,043 eligible to vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner Election cast their votes, marking a turnout of 20.14%. 726 Ballot Papers were rejected. 58,394 Postal Votes were issued of which 28,193 were returned 48.28% (this does not include any rejected).
9. A full Breakdown of the results are as follows:

Results

Candidate's Surname	Other Name(s)	Electoral Area	Party	Doncaster First Count Votes	Total Regional Votes
ALLEN	David Stewart	Doncaster	English Democrats - "More Police - catching criminals!"	4,558	19,144
BILLINGS	Alan Roy	Sheffield	Labour Party Candidate	20,805	144,978 Elected
FELTON	Gavin Patrick	Barnsley	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	10,106	57,062
OTTEN	Joe	Sheffield	Liberal Democrats	1,645	28,060
WALKER	Ian Geoffrey	Sheffield	The Conservative Party Candidate	6,074	29,904

Doncaster Turnout = 20.14%

Total Turnout (South Yorkshire) = 29.48%

EDENTHORPE & KIRK SANDALL BY-ELECTION – 5TH MAY 2016

10. A By-election was held on Thursday 5th May 2016 in the Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall Ward following the sad death of Councillor Tony Revill, of the Labour Party on 1st March, 2016. Councillor Revill served as a Councillor for almost 5 years, having been first elected in May 2011 and re-elected in the May 2015 Local Borough elections.

Results

Candidates	Description	Votes Cast	% turnout
Paul Bissett	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	960	32.96%
Martin Greenhalgh	The Conservative Party	268	
Stephen Porter	Liberal Democrat	202	
Andrea Robinson	Labour Party	1,148 - Elected	

2,591 residents of 7,862 eligible to vote in the Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall ward cast their votes, marking a turnout of 32.96%.

HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL - DUNSCROFT WARD – 5TH MAY 2016

11. A By-election was held for Hatfield Town Council – Dunscroft Ward on Thursday 5th May 2016.

Results

Candidates	Description	Votes Cast	% turnout
Nigel Bennett	Independent	211	22.90%
Keith Jacques	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	379	
Ronald Powell	Labour Party	576 - Elected	

1,169 residents of 5,104 eligible to vote in the Hatfield Town Council – Dunscroft Ward cast their votes, marking a turnout of 22.90%.

EUROPEAN UNION REFRENDUM – 23RD JUNE 2016

12. A referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union took place on Thursday 23rd June 2016. Leeds City Council was the Regional Counting Officer for Yorkshire and The Humber Region and collated the results for our area to feed into the total result for all 382 local areas.

13. The Verification and counting of ballot papers took place at Doncaster Racecourse on Thursday 23rd June 2016 at the close of poll from 10.00pm and throughout the night. The receipt of the 173 ballot boxes was smooth and quick with the last box delivered by 23:03. This meant that any postal vote packs handed in at the polling station and brought to the count by presiding officers were processed quickly and back to the count in order to verify by 23:25.

Results

Doncaster votes to LEAVE by 69%

Response	Votes Cast	% turnout total
REMAIN	46,922 (31.02%)	69.56%
LEAVE	104,260 (68.94%)	

Electorate: 217,422

14. 151,246 residents of 217,422 eligible to vote in the EU Referendum cast their votes, marking a turnout of 69.56%. 64 Ballot Papers were rejected. 61,784 Postal Votes were issued of which 54,244 were returned 87.80% (this does not include any rejected).

15. It is not possible to give a breakdown by Ward/Constituency as each counting team had a mixture of Postal Votes from across the Doncaster area included in their result.

16. **Yorkshire and the Humber** votes to LEAVE by 58%

Response	Votes Cast	% turnout total
REMAIN	1,158,298 (42.25%)	70.69%
LEAVE	1,580,937 (57.67%)	

Electorate: 3,877,780

17. **National** result was to LEAVE by 52%

Response	Votes Cast	% turnout total
REMAIN	16,141,241 (48.1%)	72.2%
LEAVE	17,410,742 (51.9%)	

Total Electorate: 46,500,001

BAWTRY TOWN COUNCIL – 30TH JUNE 2016

18. A By-election was held for two vacancies for Bawtry Town Council on Thursday 30th June 2016.

Results

Candidates	Description	Votes Cast	% turnout
Gary John Bates	Independent	198	17.50%
Gilbert Eric Budgen	Independent	250 - Elected	
George Edward Scott	Bawtry Residents Group	356 - Elected	

488 residents of 2,788 eligible to vote in the Bawtry Town Council Ward cast their votes, marking a turnout of 17.50%.

THORNE – MOORENDS TOWN COUNCIL – THORNE TOWN WARD 30TH JUNE 2016

19. A By-election was held for two vacancies for Thorne – Moorends Town Council – Thorne Town Ward on Thursday 30th June 2016.

Results

Candidates	Description	Votes Cast	% turnout
Peter Best	Thorne`s Best	287	14.64%
John Bruce Edward Phillips	Labour Party	499	
Gordon William Powell	The Community Group	647 - Elected	
Ronald Powell	Labour Party	522	
Irene Anne Sloman	The Community Group	566 - Elected	

1,351 residents of 9,231 eligible to vote in the Thorne-Moorends Town Council – Thorne Town Ward cast their votes, marking a turnout of 14.64%.

20. A further Election will also take place in Thorne-Moorends Town Council – Thorne Town Ward for one vacancy on Thursday 28th July.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

21. All of the above are statutory duties and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements. This report is primarily for information only.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

22.

Outcome	Implications
Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.	By ensuring the necessary arrangements are in place to deliver well-run elections and improving our reputation by meeting the Electoral Commission's Performance Standards.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

23. Sufficient resources will need to be made available to run two Elections so close together and to continue to drive individual registration in order to ensure that the Council complies with its legal duties detailed above.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

24. The arrangements detailed in this report are designed to ensure compliance with a range of statutory duties including:

- Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006
- Representation of the People Acts 1983, 1985 and 2000
- Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

25. The costs of both the Police and Crime Commissioner and EU Referendum elections will be claimed from Government and the Town Council Elections will be claimed back from the Parish Councils.

REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTORS

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous EDSC reports
Electoral Commission Referendum Results

Jo Miller
Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer

12th July 2016

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

UPDATE ON INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION AND THE ANNUAL CANVASS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update to Members on Individual Electoral Registration and the annual Canvass.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. Individual Electoral Registration will improve the accuracy of the register and help to counter fraud. Having a complete and accurate register is key to public engagement in the democratic process.

BACKGROUND

4. The Terms of Reference of this Committee provide an overview of Electoral Services issues. Set out below is the current position in respect of recent and current activity.

INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION (IER) 1ST DECEMBER 2015 – 1ST JULY 2016

5. The last full register was published the 1st December 2015 and Doncaster's Electorate was 216,547. Despite removing the unconfirmed electors under IER the register had grown by 5,812 electors since the last fully published register on 1st December 2014.
6. Since December 2015 registration has continued to increase and the register has been published and updated monthly and the current full electorate is now **224,249**. This is a 7,702 increase in registration which is believed to be due to public interest in the recent elections (particularly the EU Referendum). A full ward breakdown is attached at **Appendix A**.

ANNUAL CANVASS

7. In order to effectively deliver well-run electoral registration services, preparations are now beginning for the Annual Canvass to ensure that the current register is maintained and to maximise voter registration. Every year we must write to every household in the Borough to check that the information we hold on the Electoral Register is true and accurate and

maintain a response from every household. To help increase the response to the annual canvass and ensure the register is kept accurate we will be proactively undertaking new ways to ensure that people of Doncaster are kept on the Electoral Register and don't lose their right to vote. These will include:

- Telephone Canvassing
- Working with Care Homes
- Working with Schools/Colleges
- Social Media
- Home Movers through estate agents/new builders
- Working closer with internal partners eg: Council Tax, Childrens Services
- Car Park and Bus Ticket advertising

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

8. Electoral Registration is a statutory duty and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements. This report is primarily for information only.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

9.

Outcome	Implications
Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.	An accurate and well planned Canvass improves accuracy, helps counter fraud and meets the necessary arrangements to ensure that the Council meets the Electoral Commission's Performance Standards.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

10. It was essential that the Council devoted sufficient resources to the challenge of running two major Elections so close together and continue to drive individual registration in order to ensure that the Council complies with its legal duties detailed below.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The arrangements detailed in this report are designed to ensure compliance with a range of statutory duties including:
- Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006
 - Representation of the People Acts 1983, 1985 and 2000
 - Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The costs associated are carried out within existing budgets.

REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTORS

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous EDSC reports

Jo Miller
Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer

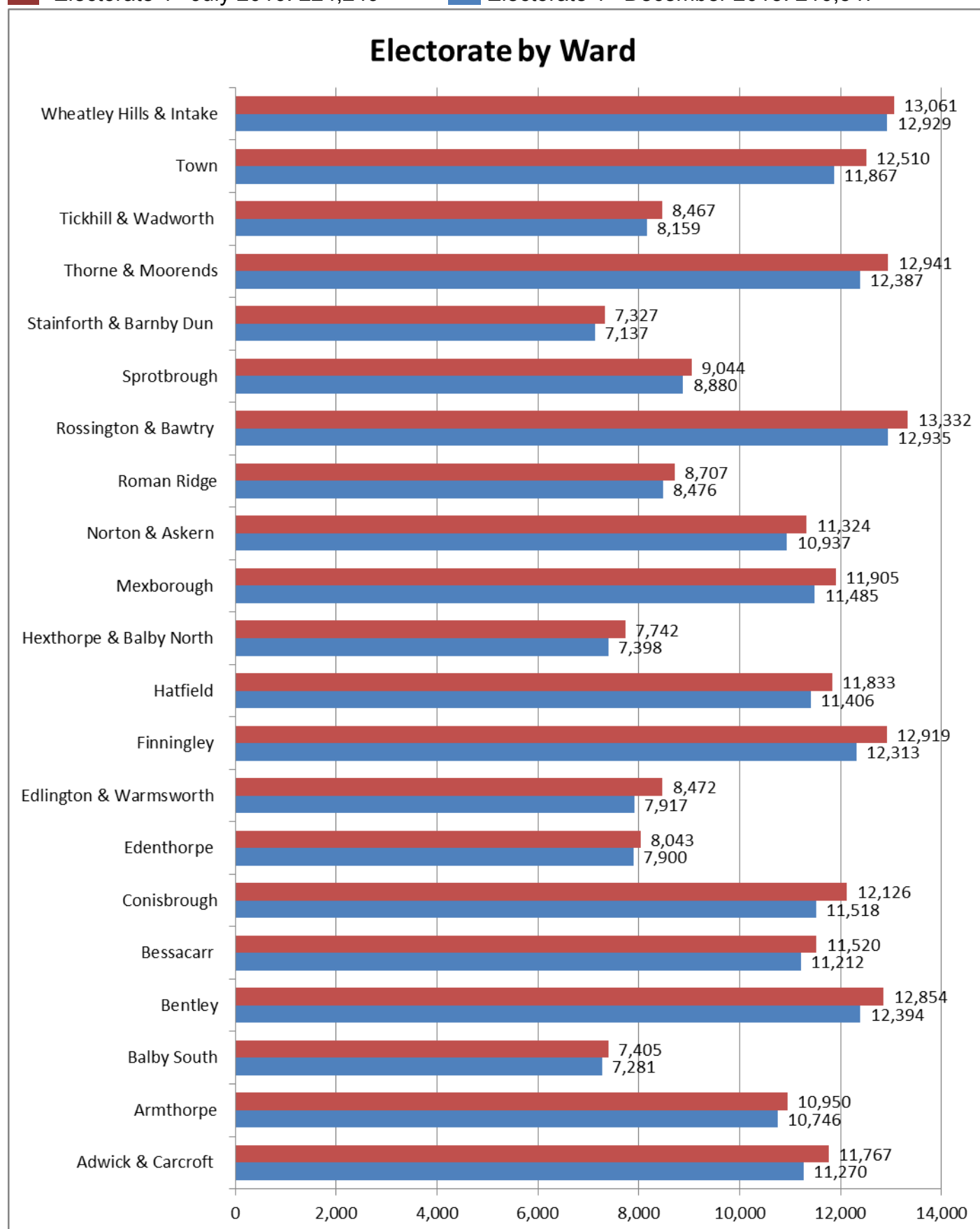
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**Individual Electoral Registration (IER) Published Register 1st December 2015 –
1st July 2016**

Register breakdown by Ward

■ Electorate 1st July 2016: 224,249

■ Electorate 1st December 2015: 216,547



Electorate by Ward

