



## Agenda

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To all Members of the

# ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

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, 17th March, 2020

**Time:** 10.00 a.m.

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### Items for Discussion:

### Page No.

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 Meetings held on 26 November 2019 and 27 January 2020. 1 - 8
- A. Reports where the public and press may not be excluded.**
5. Electoral Services Update on Key Issues Report. 9 - 14

**Damian Allen**  
Chief Executive

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Issued on: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Governance Services 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 Nick Allen

Councillor Steve Cox	Councillor Sean Gibbons
Councillor Pat Haith	Councillor Mark Houlbrook
Councillor Majid Khan	Councillor Jane Kidd
Councillor Kevin Rodgers	Councillor Derek Smith
Councillor Sue Wilkinson	

# Agenda Item 4.

## DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2019

A MEETING of the ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE was held in Room 007A - CIVIC OFFICE on TUESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 2019, at 10.00 am.

#### PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Phil Cole  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Nick Allen

Councillors Steve Cox, Pat Haith, Mark Houlbrook, Kevin Rodgers, Derek Smith and Sue Wilkinson.

#### APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sean Gibbons.

#### 5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY

There were no declarations reported at the meeting.

#### 6 MINUTES OF THE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9TH JULY 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### 7 PREPARATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the preparations for the parliamentary general election to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The report also updated Members on the ongoing review of polling districts and polling places, including a summary of some changes that had been made in preparation for the parliamentary election.

In presenting the report, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Committee that Mags Evers, a highly experienced Electoral Services Officer, was providing management support as Interim Electoral Services Manager whilst Trina Barber was on maternity leave.

The Assistant Director reported that the polling places review had commenced in September 2019, but would now need to be deferred until January 2020 in the light of the general election being called at short notice. He pointed out that it was likely that an extraordinary meeting of this Committee would need to be held during January in order to formally agree the recommendations arising from the review. In the meantime, the work undertaken on the review to date and the requirement to prepare for the imminent parliamentary election had led to the identification of a number of new polling venues for this election, the details of which were set out in paragraph 9 of the report. Some of these changes were in order to enable schools to remain open on the election day.

It was noted that all polling stations had been booked for the general election. With regard to the recent flooding in the Borough, it was reported that only one polling station had been affected, at Castle Hills Primary School in Scawthorpe, but arrangements had been made to site a portable unit on the school's car park so that the location could still be used. It was noted that the village hall at Fishlake was unaffected and would be available for use as normal. Information on polling stations had been communicated by the Council via press releases and social media, and the 'Find My Polling Station' application would be available on the Council's website, allowing electors to search for their polling station by typing in a post code or address. Steps were also being taken to ensure that people affected by the floods were still able to cast their votes in the election, This included the setting up of a collection point located at the Post Office in Stainforth by the Royal Mail which would allow voters to pick up their postal vote packs in the event that the Royal Mail were unable to physically deliver the packs to their home addresses due to flooding.

The Committee noted that the normal count venue of Doncaster Racecourse was unavailable due to the election being called at short notice. However, the National College for High Speed Rail had been secured as an alternative venue. There would be a separate election count hall for each of the three parliamentary constituencies in Doncaster. The verification and counts would both take place on the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019, to which all Members would be invited to attend. The venue would have all the usual facilities for those attending to observe the proceedings, including breakout areas, television screens displaying the national results as they came in and café facilities. In reply to a query, the Assistant Director advised that Members would be sent a letter inviting them to attend the count, and he explained that it would be helpful if this letter could be brought with them to the count venue to assist with security arrangements on the night.

In reply to a Member's query as to whether the delivery of postal votes was likely to be affected by a national postal strike and the added pressures of Christmas mail at this time of year, the Assistant Director explained that Returning Officers had been advised that the Royal Mail had been granted an injunction to prevent such a strike. It was also reported that the Royal Mail usually recruited additional staff at this time of year to help keep on top of the additional seasonal mail. He added that the Electoral Services team would be able to monitor the situation by checking logs of how many postal votes were coming in each day.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

8 ELECTIONS, BY-ELECTIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING  
REFERENDUMS UPDATE

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the results of the Bawtry Neighbourhood Planning Referendum held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It was noted that, in total, 490 electors had cast their vote (turnout of 17.72%), and the outcome had been in favour of using the Neighbourhood Plan for Bawtry to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area. The result was reported to Full Council on 21st November 2019, and a full breakdown of the results was provided in Appendix A to the report.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

The Committee received a report which provided an update on a number of key work streams being undertaken by the Electoral Services Team in relation to the Register of Electors and Annual Canvass.

In presenting the report, the Senior Electoral Services Officer confirmed that work on the annual canvass had commenced in July 2019. Having received 78,401 responses to the initial Household Enquiry Form, reminders had been sent out in August, followed by a further second stage reminder in September, leaving approximately 37,000 properties left to canvass. Following telephone canvassing and door knocking during September to October, the Register had been published on 4 November 2019 to coincide with the UK Parliamentary Election being held on 12 December 2019. Members noted that Doncaster's overall electorate had increased to 231, 360. A full breakdown by return method in comparison to 2016, 2017 and 2018 was detailed at Appendix A to the report.

In reply to questions, the Senior Electoral Services Officer confirmed that the turnaround for receiving verification of electors' applications to be added to the electoral register from the Department for Work and Pensions was relatively quick.

With regard to eligibility to vote in the forthcoming General Election, Members noted that EU citizens were not entitled to vote. Foreign nationals from Commonwealth countries could vote however. It was noted that there were approximately 11,000 European electors in Doncaster, meaning that there were approximately 220,000 eligible voters on the Register.

Councillor Derek Smith queried what measures were taken to ensure that residents of care homes were given an opportunity to participate in elections if they so wished. In response, the Senior Electoral Services Officer explained that canvass team leaders were employed and part of their role was to visit residential homes. These individuals had built up good relations with the residential homes over the years and there were no major problems to speak of. Members spoke of some instances where the care home staff were reluctant to give candidates/councillors visiting homes in the run up to elections access to speak to residents. In reply, the Assistant Director explained that as care homes in Doncaster were privately owned, this was a matter for each individual home to address.

The Chair then thanked the Electoral Services Team for their efficiency in managing to bring forward the publication of the Electoral Register to 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, and he congratulated them on the progress made. The Assistant Director added that it was a testament to the work of the Electoral Services Team to have achieved the progress to date under testing circumstances, with the Electoral Services Manager currently being on maternity leave, and another member of the team only returning this week having been on long term sick leave with a serious illness.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

CHAIR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY  
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2020

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE was held at the CIVIC OFFICE, DONCASTER on MONDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2020 at 1.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor Phil Cole  
Vice-Chair - Councillor Nick Allen

Councillors Steve Cox, Sean Gibbons, Pat Haith, Mark Houlbrook, Majid Khan, Derek Smith and Sue Wilkinson.

Also in Attendance:

Councillor David Nevett (Observer).

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jane Kidd and Kevin Rodgers.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY

No declarations were made at the meeting.

11 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2019/20

The Committee received a report on the outcome of the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019/20. Members noted that the statutory responsibility for reviewing UK Parliamentary polling districts and places rested with each relevant local authority, with reviews being required to be conducted every four years.

Detailed schedules outlining the existing arrangements for polling districts and places and proposed changes taking into account the submission of the Returning Officer and feedback from public consultation were set out in the appendices to the report. The proposals sought to identify more appropriate polling places where adverse comments had been received on the location and/or suitability of current venues, to enable schools to remain open on election day, to identify alternatives where usual stations were no longer available and to avoid using mobile stations which were expensive to hire and site and were unpopular with voters and residents in the surrounding area.

In introducing the report, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the review, which had commenced in August 2019, had been delayed due to the calling of the General Election at short notice on 12 December 2019. This had resulted in the timeframe for the review being revised, with this Extraordinary meeting being convened in order to present the report in time to conclude the review by the statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

The Interim Electoral Services Manager drew Members' attention to an errata sheet tabled at the meeting, which gave details of errors in the appendices to the report, as follows:-

#### Appendix 1

- Page 37: Parish council information relating to polling district TA was incorrect. The report indicated that this polling district was within the South Ward of Adwick on Dearne Parish Council. The entry for parish council for this polling district should read **Adwick on Dearne Parish Council North Ward**.
- Page 39: Parish council information relating to polling districts UB and UC was incorrect. The report indicated that there was no parish council for these polling districts. The entry for the parish council in each case should read **Edenthorpe Parish Council**.

#### Appendix 2

- Page 48: Parish council information relating to polling district UB was incorrect. The report indicated no parish council. The entry for the parish council for this polling district should read **Edenthorpe Parish Council**.

Members then considered in detail the content of the schedules as appended to the report and agreed the proposals for each Ward in turn, subject to discussion and/or questions on the following points:

- Councillor Mark Houlbrook queried whether the trend towards Academies and Free Schools would have an impact on the availability of these premises for use as polling stations in the future. In response, the officers explained that Academies and Free Schools were still funded by the public purse, so the principle remained the same. While these schools could not legally refuse to allow the use of their premises as polling stations, the officers stressed that they always tried to work constructively with schools to identify ways of minimising any disruption so that they could remain open on polling days. It was noted that, under normal circumstances, schools could usually be given plenty of notice in advance of election days, which made it easier for them to put the necessary arrangements in place. In some cases, schools were able to arrange Inset (training) days to coincide with election days, so that they could close the school when the premises were needed as a polling station. On the question of whether schools remained open or not on polling days, it was noted that this was a matter for the Headteacher to decide, based on safeguarding responsibilities if the premises remained open. This involved determining whether unimpeded access to the polling station for voters could be provided, whilst keeping the remainder of the school premises secure.
- Councillor Derek Smith referred to the proposal to merge Polling District LD with LC in the Hatfield ward, and to allocate voters in that area to the Kinsbourne Green Communal Hall, which he advised would result in some residents having to walk a long distance to the polling station compared to the previous arrangements. While he acknowledged that there were limited options as regards identifying suitable alternative polling places in the vicinity, Councillor Smith suggested that the Duncroft Social Working Men's Club at

200 Station Road, Hatfield might be worth investigating. In reply, the officers explained that there was insufficient time to investigate any alternative options if the statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 was to be met for agreeing the recommendations from the Review. However, it was noted that there would still be scope for making further changes to polling places outside of the Review period in cases where this was felt to be imperative. This being the case, the officers indicated that they would be happy to consider Councillor Smith's suggestion in respect of the Working Men's Club at a later date.

- At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor David Nevett (observer) commented on the recommendation to use the Church Balk Centre in Edenthorpe as a polling place in future instead of the Church of the Good Shepherd and gave some feedback on the station used in the December General Election. It was reported that the Church Balk Centre was being recommended on the basis that it was located centrally within Polling District UB and had recently been refurbished. The venue was accessible, with good facilities, external lighting and parking spaces.
- In response to a query by Councillor Mark Houlbrook concerning the proposed merging of polling district QH into QG in Thorne and Moorends Ward, the Interim Electoral Services Manager explained that this change was aimed at simplifying the management of the polling station on polling day by only having to use one Register instead of two. The proposal would not change the arrangements for voters in any way. Councillor Houlbrook also highlighted the fact that there were six polling places covering the Thorne area, but only one polling place (the Community Centre, Northgate, Moorends) for the whole of Moorends, and he felt that this disparity should be looked at in future.

During subsequent discussion, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services suggested a proposed way forward in terms of picking up the issues raised by Councillors Smith and Nevett. He advised that, in view of the impending statutory deadline for signing off the Review recommendations, the Committee should consider agreeing the proposals at today's meeting. There would then be a further opportunity to examine the effectiveness of the polling place arrangements following the Police and Crime Commissioner election in May 2020 and the use of the Hatfield and Edenthorpe stations could be reported back at this Committee's meeting in July 2020. This would enable Members to assess whether further changes to polling places were still felt to be necessary and, if so, consider in more detail any alternative options. After the Committee had concurred with this proposed course of action, it was

RESOLVED to approve the proposed changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places, as detailed in the Appendices to the report.

CHAIR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Doncaster Council

### Report

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17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

#### **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 preparations for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election on 7th May 2020.

#### **EXEMPT REPORT**

2. N/A

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

3. 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?**

4. Having accessible and well organised elections is key to public engagement in the democratic process.

#### **BACKGROUND**

5. The terms of reference of this Committee provide for 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**

6. The Election for a South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner will take place on Thursday 7th May 2020 with the usual hours of poll 7.00am – 10.00pm.
7. Barnsley Council are the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) in charge for South Yorkshire and will collate the votes given from the four Local Authorities. However, each Local Returning Officer will verify and count

locally and the information will be communicated to the PARO at various stages in accordance with the agreed protocol. Regular meetings have been scheduled by the PARO and key officers from the four Local Authorities. Our Local Returning Officer has also scheduled regular meetings with the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Electoral Services Manager and other key officers.

8. The Verification and counting of ballot papers will take place on Friday 8th May 2020 at Doncaster Racecourse and is expected to commence at 11am. This is a bank holiday but is the date chosen by the PARO.
9. Arrangements for appointing staff are underway. It is likely that approximately 550 staff will be appointed across all posts.
10. Polling stations are currently being finalised and these will reflect the stations contained in the Council's Polling Places review with the following new polling stations identified. These new polling stations will be highlighted on polling cards notifying electors of a change to their previous polling place.
  - Conisbrough Ward – Reresby Walk Communal Hall will be used if Hickleton Communal Hall is unavailable, this is subject to the outcome of a review of such premises currently being conducted by St Leger Homes
  - Armthorpe Ward – A site visit to Our Lady of Sorrows Primary School has been arranged for 10 March with a view to designating it as the new permanent polling place for polling district FA to replace the Youth Centre at Armthorpe Academy which is to be decommissioned.
  - Bentley Ward – A site visit to Arksey Village Hall has been arranged for 10 March with a view to designating it the new permanent polling place for polling district NC to replace Arksey Willows Nursery.
  - Thorne and Moorends Ward – The Northgate Community Centre at Moorends is unavailable for 7 May and subject to a site visit on 10 March, the nearby Winning Post Community Centre will be designated as an alternative for this election only.
  - Stainforth and Barnby Dun Ward – Polton Close Communal Hall is to be designated as the new permanent polling place for polling district RA to allow the Holy Family Junior and Infant School to be released as a polling place.

### **Future Upcoming Elections and By-Elections**

#### Edenthorpe Neighbourhood Planning Referendum

11. In accordance with the relevant planning legislation, a Referendum will be held in the Edenthorpe Ward to consider the Edenthorpe Neighbourhood Plan. The Referendum will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and will involve two Polling Stations. The costs of the Referendum will be met by Central Government funds.

#### Stainforth Town Council

12. A vacancy was also advertised and called by ten electors for the Stainforth Town Council. However, there was only one nomination received, therefore the election was uncontested and the candidate was automatically elected.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

13. 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

14.

Outcomes	Implications
<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	<p>The Council has statutory duties to support elections.</p> <p>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.</p>

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

15. Sufficient resources will need to be made available to administer the Election in order to ensure that the Council complies with its legal duties detailed above.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: NC Date: 04.03.20]

16. 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 [Officer Initials: AT Date: 05/03/20 ]

17. The costs of the Police and Crime Commissioner election will be claimed from Government and so will not be a pressure on the Council's budget.

## HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

18. Human Resources implications have not been requested.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

19. Technology implications have not been requested.

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

20. Health implications have not been requested.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: SRF Date 04/03/20]**

21. The Council has a duty to ensure Elections are well managed to allow all eligible electors to freely vote by secret ballot ensuring freedom of expression and political debate by exercising their vote

## **CONSULTATION**

22. N/A

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

27. Previous EDSC reports.

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

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**Damian Allen**  
**Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer**

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## Doncaster Council

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17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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

### **RESULTS OF THE UK PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION 2019**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report provides members with the results of the UK Parliamentary General Election held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

#### **EXEMPT REPORT**

2. The report is not exempt.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. 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?**

4. 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 both local and central Government.

#### **BACKGROUND**

5. Elections are significant projects, which are delivered by a small core team supported by hundreds of individuals, both internally across the Council and externally, who undertake various duties such as postal vote opening, working at polling stations and the counting of votes.

## UK Parliamentary General Election – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019

6. On the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 Parliament agreed to hold an early General Election on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019. At that time the core Electoral Services Team were heavily engaged in the Annual Canvass and had planned to publish the revised Electoral Register on 1<sup>st</sup> December. This work had to be halted and a revised Register was published on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov in time to be used in the 12<sup>th</sup> December poll. The core Electoral Services Team were faced with the challenge of organising a snap General Election in the run-up to Christmas, in an area beset by the November floods. The team appointed 750 members of staff to carry out the various election duties, booked 172 polling stations and arranged a replacement count venue as the regular venue had an existing booking.
7. Despite the extra pressures, the General Election was delivered successfully. The combined eligible electorate for all three constituencies was 219,107 electors of which 58,900 were postal voters and 160,207 vote at Polling Stations. The electorate was broken down as follows:-

### Don Valley

Of the 75,356 eligible electors, 27,649 cast their vote in the 56 polling stations across Don Valley and of the 21,685 postal votes issued, 17,870 electors completed and returned their postal votes (a further 217 postal vote packs were received and rejected due to the personal identifiers not matching). A total of 45,519 ballot papers were verified, giving a total turnout of 60.41% for the Don Valley Constituency.

### Doncaster Central

Of the 71,389 eligible electors, 26,151 cast their vote in the 52 polling stations across Doncaster Central and of the 19,112 postal votes issued, 15,538 electors completed and returned their postal votes (a further 249 postal vote packs were received and rejected due to the personal identifiers not matching). A total of 41,689 ballot papers were verified giving a total turnout of 58.43% for the Doncaster Central Constituency.

### Doncaster North

Of the 72,362 eligible electors, 26,176 cast their vote in the 64 polling stations across Doncaster North and of the 8,103 postal votes issued, 14,617 electors completed and returned their postal votes (a further 273 postal vote packs were received and rejected due to the personal identifiers not matching). A total of 40,793 ballot papers were verified giving a total turnout of 56.37% for the Doncaster North Constituency.

A summary of the results is set out at Appendix A of this report. The results, including the number of votes for each candidate, the rejected votes and the percentage turnout, are also published on the Council's website:

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/the-council-democracy/general-parliamentary-elections-2019>

During the run up to the General Election, there was an increase in registration, postal vote and proxy applications. This created significant extra

work for the Electoral Services Team, especially due to the amount of duplicate registrations received from electors re-registering when they were in fact already registered. Many applications were in fact duplicate applications. This is very time consuming for the core Electoral Services Team, who must manually go through many of these duplicate registrations to ensure that they are in fact a duplicate registration – for example, should someone put in a middle name or initial that they have not used before, the system will flag them for a manual check and they cannot be 100% matched as an exact duplicate. The Electoral Services Team ensured every duplicate was checked and processed postal vote/proxy applications as quickly as possible to ensure that everyone who applied by the statutory deadlines were able to cast their vote on polling day.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8. 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

- 9.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that</p>	

	<p>is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	<p>The Council has statutory duties to support elections.</p> <p>We will provide strong leadership 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</p>

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

10. Sufficient resources were needed to organise a short notice Parliamentary Election at this time.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (NAME: NC DATE: 04.02.20)**

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 (NAME: AT 09/03/20 )**

12. The costs of the UK Parliamentary General Election are claimed back from the Government and are expected to be within the allocation provided

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

13. Human Resources implications have not been requested

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

14. Technology implications have not been requested.

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

15. Health implications have not been requested.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

16. The council has a duty to ensure elections are well managed to allow all eligible electors to freely vote by secret ballot ensuring freedom of expression and political debate by exercising their vote

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

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**Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer**

Voting figures for Thursday, 12 December 2019

Candidates	Party	Votes
<b>BAILEY</b> Wendy	Independent	188
<b>CALLADINE</b> Frank Lloyd	English Democrats - "Putting England First!"	309
<b>MANION</b> Stevie Shaun	Yorkshire Party - Speaking up for Yorkshire	959
<b>MILIBAND</b> Ed	Labour Party	15,740 (Elected)
<b>OTTEN</b> Joe	Liberal Democrat	1,476
<b>SALE</b> Katrina Louise	The Conservative Party	13,370
<b>STEWART</b> Andy	Brexit Party	8,294
<b>TODD</b> Eddie		220
<b>WOOD</b> Neil James	Independent	142
<b>Total</b>	95	

**The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:**

	Number of ballot papers
A want of an official mark	0
B voting for more Candidates than voter was entitled to	24
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	1
D being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	70

Vacant Seats	Electorate	Ballot Papers Issued	Turnout
1	72,362	40,793	56.37%

Voting figures for Thursday, 12 December 2019

<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Votes</b>
<b>DUHRE</b> Surjit Singh	Brexit Party	6,842
<b>FRENCH</b> Leon Sean	Yorkshire Party - Speaking up for Yorkshire	1,012
<b>HORTON</b> Paul	Liberal Democrat	1,748
<b>SHERIDAN</b> Frank	Green Party	981
<b>WEEDEN-SANZ</b> Roberto	The Conservative Party	14,360
<b>WINTERTON</b> Rosie	Labour Party	16,638 (Elected)

**The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:**

	<b>Number of ballot papers</b>
<b>Total</b>	108
A want of an official mark	0
B voting for more Candidates than voter was entitled to	28
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
D being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	80

<b>Vacant Seats</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Ballot Papers Issued</b>	<b>Turnout</b>
1	71,389	41,689	58.43%

Voting figures for Thursday, 12 December 2019

<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Votes</b>
<b>ALCOCK</b> Mark Lindsay	Liberal Democrat	1,907
<b>FLETCHER</b> Nick	The Conservative Party	19,609 (Elected)
<b>FLINT</b> Caroline Louise	Labour Party	15,979
<b>HOLMES</b> Chris	Yorkshire Party - Speaking up for Yorkshire	823
<b>NEEDHAM</b> Kate	Green Party	872
<b>WHITEHURST</b> Paul Alan	Brexit Party	6,247
<b>Total</b>		82

**The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:**

	<b>Number of ballot papers</b>
A want of an official mark	0
B voting for more Candidates than voter was entitled to	26
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	1
D being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	55

<b>Vacant Seats</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Ballot Papers Issued</b>	<b>Turnout</b>
1	75,356	45,519	60.37%