



Doncaster Council

Agenda

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: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Date: Tuesday, 24th November, 2020

Time: 10.00 am

The meeting will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams. Members and Officers will be advised on the process to follow to attend the meeting. Any members of the public or Press wishing to connect to the meeting remotely should contact Governance Services on 01302 736709/737462/736712 for further details.

BROADCASTING NOTICE

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Damian Allen
Chief Executive

Issued on: Monday, 16 November 2020

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

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 Meeting held on 7th July 2020. 1 - 4

A. Reports where the public and press may not be excluded.

5. Annual Canvass Progress Report. 5 - 10
6. 2021 Elections. 11 - 16

MEMBERS OF THE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE (11)

Chair – Councillor Phil Cole

Vice-Chair – Councillor Nick Allen

Councillor George Derx	Councillor Pat Haith
Councillor Mark Houlbrook	Councillor Majid Khan
Councillor Jane Kidd	Councillor Andy Pickering
Councillor Kevin Rodgers	Councillor Derek Smith
Councillor Sue Wilkinson	

Agenda Item 4.

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 7TH JULY, 2020

A MEETING of the ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE was held as a VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS on TUESDAY, 7TH JULY, 2020, at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

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

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

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY

No declarations were made at the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17TH MARCH 2020

Councillor Majid Khan pointed out that he had submitted apologies for the Committee's meeting in March and asked that these be recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 COUNCIL DECISION MAKING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 Pandemic

The Committee received a report which provided an update to Members on the arrangements put in place and measures taken to date in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that the Council's decision making processes have continued to operate effectively.

In presenting the report, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained that new Regulations had come into force as a result of the Coronavirus Act 2020, handing local authorities new powers to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology or by other remote means during the coronavirus pandemic.

Furthermore, the regulations removed existing requirements for local authorities to hold annual meetings this year, and allowed for all current appointments (i.e. Chairs and seats on committees and representation on outside bodies) to remain in place until May 2021. These measures were aimed at helping local authorities redeploy their resources to deal with the pandemic and ensure essential business continues whilst upholding democratic principles and protecting the

health and safety of Members, officers and the public in line with official public health guidance.

It was noted that remote attendance by a Member at a virtual committee meeting was deemed to satisfy the requirement in relation to Members having to attend at least one meeting in a period of 6 consecutive months under the Local Government Act 1972. It was recognised, however, that under the circumstances, it would not be possible for all Members to attend virtual meetings in the absence of Full Council meetings taking place, so the Assistant Director confirmed that he had written to all Members as Monitoring Officer confirming that he would exercise the delegation given to him by Full Council to disregard the lockdown period when calculating failure to attend by any Member. Councillors would be notified at the point that this period concluded.

During discussion, the Chair asked whether Officers would be capturing the learning gained from holding virtual meetings, as people's experiences of participating in online meetings varied according to their own personal circumstances. In reply, the Assistant Director advised that a survey of Members would be undertaken in the autumn on this subject, as he was aware that experiences varied according to the devices used by Members. He also confirmed that he would be writing to those Members without Council laptops offering them new machines, in order that everyone participating in virtual meetings had reliable and consistent functionality across the same platform.

Members acknowledged that virtual meetings brought some benefits, such as the convenience of enabling members to remotely attend briefings with officers and other shorter meetings that they might otherwise have had difficulty in attending. There was also potential for making attendance at Member seminars and training sessions easier in future, if these were held as virtual events such as webinars. Other Members however still felt that they would prefer to meet physically if and when circumstances permitted. The Assistant Director added that, overall, virtual meetings had been successful and it was hoped that the legislation passed by the Government enabling remote meetings would be extended beyond the current end date of May 2021 so that remote attendance by Members remained open as an option in the future.

In response to a comment by a Member with regard to the number of 'Rule 16' special urgency decisions that had been taken during the pandemic, the Assistant Director explained that as Doncaster Council was a Mayoral Authority, the legal position was such that the majority of decisions could be taken by the Elected Mayor. He added that other local authorities had delegated decision making powers to officers, which was a less democratic arrangement than if decisions were being taken by individuals who had been elected. The Assistant Director stated that he believed that the number of Rule 16 decisions taken had been appropriate under the circumstances. He also confirmed that these decisions had been taken in line with the provisions contained within the Council's Constitution, and in accordance with the rules, Councillor Jane Kidd had been consulted each time as the Overview and Scrutiny consultee.

In response to a comment by a Member with regard to potential data protection and confidentiality risks with remote meetings, the Assistant Director stated that, to a large degree, this was a matter of personal responsibility, in much the same way as when Members received confidential agenda papers and had to ensure these were kept in a secure manner.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

4 CANVASS REFORM

The Committee received a report which provided an update on Canvass Reform proposals.

It was reported that each year the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) had a duty to carry out a full annual review of the Electoral Register by contacting all residential addresses to establish if the information currently held on the Electoral Register was complete and accurate, before publishing a new revised Electoral Register on the 1st December each year. This was called the Annual Canvass.

Last year the Government consulted on changes to the Annual Canvass which would become 'Canvass Reform'. The UK Government's Canvass Reform statutory instrument was debated in Parliament on 31st October 2019, and signed by the Minister for the Constitution on 4th November 2019. This meant the reforms had formally become law in relation to the UK parliamentary register and the local government register in England.

The overall aim of canvass reform was to deliver a more efficient system by which Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) could maintain their electoral registers with no negative effect on citizens, or on the accuracy and completeness of the registers.

In presenting the report, the Senior Electoral Services Officer explained that the new canvass would incorporate a 'data step' at the outset of the process. This would inform the ERO, based on the data available to them, which properties were likely to have an unchanged household composition, based on matching their data on the electoral register against national Government data and, where relevant, locally held data sources. This would allow the canvass process to be streamlined for those households that had not changed since the previous year and would enable the ERO to target their resources to where responses and updates to the electoral register were believed to be required.

During discussion, the Senior Electoral Services Officer answered a range of questions from Members, on topics including the different types of data, both national and local, that could be utilised by EROs, and the current position in Doncaster with regard to the data matching process. It was noted that currently, there were approximately 29,000 unmatched properties and 30,000 unmatched electors on the Register.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

5 ELECTORAL SERVICES UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES REPORT

The Committee received a report which provided an update to Members on recent Electoral activities.

In presenting the report, the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Edenthorpe Neighbourhood Planning Referendum which had been scheduled to be held on Thursday 19th March 2020 and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner election scheduled for Thursday 7th May 2020 had both been postponed until 2021. This would make 2021 a particularly challenging year for the Electoral Services team and the Council as a whole, due to the need to hold Mayoral, Borough and Parish Council elections all at the same time, in addition to the Police and Crime Commissioner election and the Edenthorpe Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.

The Assistant Director added that, at this stage, it was difficult to predict the impact that the pandemic would have on next year's elections, but there had been suggestions that it might be necessary to hold 100% postal vote elections. And under the current social distancing restrictions, it would not be possible to hold the counts for the elections in the normal way, unless the rules were lifted by the time the elections were held next May.

In answer to questions relating to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Council's ability to plan for the elections in May 2021, the Assistant Director explained that at present, there were no plans to change any of the arrangements in terms of booking polling stations and the count venue. If proposals changed nearer the time in relation to how the elections were to be conducted, then officers would be ready to adapt the arrangements as required. In the meantime, a watching brief would be maintained to monitor how the situation evolved over the coming months.

With regard to the potential costs of holding 100% postal vote elections, it was noted that there would be additional costs incurred in relation to sending out the papers and providing free post envelopes for all electors. And while there would be some saving made in relation to not having to employ polling station staff and hire the venues, there would be additional costs incurred in relation to an expanded postal vote opening and processing operation.

After the Assistant Director had explained that any move to electronic voting in elections would require primary legislation and there were no signs that this was being actively pursued by the Government at the present time, it was

RESOLVED to note the update report on Electoral activities.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____



Doncaster Council

Report

24 November 2020

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

ANNUAL CANVASS – PROGRESS REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update to Members on a number of key work streams being undertaken by the Electoral Services Team in relation to the Register of Electors and Annual Canvass.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. N/A

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. Ensuring the Electoral Register is as up to date as possible and carrying out proactive electoral activity is key to public engagement to ensure residents are registered to enable them to vote when an election occurs.

BACKGROUND

5. It is a legal requirement for the Electoral Registration Officer (“ERO”) (Damian Allen) to carry out an annual canvass to ensure that the electoral register is up to date. As part of the prescribed process, an ERO must conduct household visits to properties that have been required to respond but have not done so.
6. With the introduction of the canvass reforms this year, only properties where all the electors cannot be matched against national and/or local data are required to respond. The overall aim of canvass reform is to deliver a more efficient system by which Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) can

maintain their electoral registers with no negative effect on citizens, or on the accuracy and completeness of the registers.

Annual Canvass

7. The annual canvass commenced in August 2020 and at that point there were 140,280 properties in Doncaster and an electorate of 229,670.
8. **Route 1** – These properties are unlikely to have changed as the information held on the electoral register matched against national Government data and, where relevant, locally held data sources. These households only need to respond if they want to make a change to the information we hold on the electoral register for their property. In total, there was 111,808 properties that successfully matched and sent a notification letter to make necessary changes if applicable.
9. **Route 2** – These properties are the un-matched ones that do require a response. We originally sent letters to 28,399 properties of which 7,959 responded. Therefore we sent a further reminder letter to the outstanding 20,440 and received to date a further 4,281 responses back which gives a total of 12,239(%) returned, leaving 16,154 still outstanding and requiring a response.
10. **Route 3** – These properties are defined as Care Homes and Homes of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) all of which are required to provide an update on their current occupants. The Electoral Services Team have been contacting these properties directly due to the high turn around in these types of properties to establish that everything is as up to date as possible, so far we have achieved a 91% response rate and are continuing to chase in order to hope to gain a 100% response.
11. Due to the introduction of the reforms, it is difficult to compare the response rate of this canvass with previous years, especially as 80% of properties have not been required to respond. However, in previous years when all properties had been required to respond, the number of outstanding responses after the household visits were conducted the number of outstanding properties was still much higher than our current outstanding figure so far.
12. Overall for Route 1 and 2 which includes those properties which do not require a response, as of 11th November 2020 we have a total response rate of 88.43% which is higher than previous years:

Year	Responses received at the end of Canvass	% of Responded properties at end of Canvass	Number of properties outstanding
2020*	124,047(currently)	88.43% (currently)	16,154 (currently)
2019**	117,000	84.20%	21,948
2018	119,859	86.42%	18,836
2017	118,017	85.70%	19,698
2016	112,364	82.87%	23,230

* 2020 is current pre-household visit figures

** 2019 Canvass ended early due to snap Parliamentary election on 12 December 2019

13. The Cabinet Office confirmed that even with the Covid-19 pandemic, EROs are still required to meet their statutory duties regarding the canvass, including conducting household visits where it is safe to do so, taking into account recent public health guidelines. If an ERO felt household visits could not take place, then they would need to be clear as to the reasons why.
14. To provide EROs with more time to carry out household visits during the pandemic, legislation has been passed to change the deadline for publishing the revised register from 1st December 2020 to 1st February 2021. However, with multiple Elections taking place in Doncaster next year, (Elected Mayor, all out local borough Cllrs, all out Town/Parish Cllrs, postponed Police & Crime Commissioner and Edenthorpe Neighbourhood Planning Referendum) we did not plan to go beyond the original date of 1st December 2020, so that the Electoral Services team can focus on what is expected to be a very complex election planning process.
15. On the 28th October 2020 the ERO along with advice from the Director of Public Health, and taking into consideration the current response rate to the annual canvass the ERO took the decision not to carry out household visits due to Doncaster at that time in Tier 3 Restrictions with Covid-19 cases on the rise in the area. The subsequent Prime-ministerial announcement on 31st October 2020 of a second national lockdown for four weeks from the 5th November meant that in any event household visits were not possible.
16. In line with Cabinet Office and Electoral Commission guidance, if household visits do not take place or have to be stopped, the ERO should look to carry out mitigating actions to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register. Therefore the Electoral Services team are now carrying out the following mitigating actions:
 - Contact elector's via email, where an email address is held on the electoral register
 - Contact elector's via telephone, where a phone number is held on the electoral register
 - Data matching and data mining against Council records (Council Tax, Housing Benefit etc)
 - Additional Corporate Comms messages to encourage non-responders to respond.
 - Reminder Canvass Forms (with pre-paid return envelopes, which were not previously sent) posted to non-responding properties where we hold no other form of contact details.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

17. Electoral Registration is a statutory function and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

18. 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

19.

Outcomes	Implications
<p>Doncaster Working: 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"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	
<p>Doncaster Living: 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"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	
<p>Doncaster Learning: 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"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	
<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes • 	

<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>The Council has statutory duties to support elections</p>
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

20. Every effort is made to drive Individual Electoral Registration to ensure the Council meets the Electoral Commission's Performance Standards and complies with its legal duties.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: SRF Date: 13/11/2020]

21. There are comprehensive statutory provisions covering the delivery of electoral registration activity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: PH Date: 13/11/2020]

22. This Annual Canvass is funded from the Registration of Elections budget (NC003). The Cabinet Office also provides an annual funding contribution, this year's funding is £21,578 which is lower than past allocations but this is due to the expected savings from Canvass Reform.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

23. Human Resources implications have not been requested

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

24. Technology implications have not been requested

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

25. Health implications have not been requested.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SD Date]

26. The Council has a duty to ensure all eligible electors can register to vote easily and are provided with several ways in order to do so. Registration

information is also available in alternative languages, Braille and by video (YouTube) on the Council Web page.

CONSULTATION

27. N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

28. Previous EDSC reports.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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Doncaster Council

Report

24 November 2020

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

2021 ELECTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update to Members on the upcoming Elections scheduled for 6th May 2021.

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.

2021 Elections

6. The Election for a South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner which was due to take place on Thursday 7th May 2020 was postponed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic under the 'Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020'. This act also postpones any other scheduled May 2020 elections and any by-elections/referendums in England and Wales to May 2021. This includes the Edenthorpe Neighbourhood Planning Referendum which was due to be held on Thursday 19th March 2020.

7. This will make 2021 a particularly challenging year due to the combination of polls all with different types of voting and counting procedures due to supplementary voting for both Mayoral and PCC, without the extra complications Covid-19 brings. The polls scheduled to take place in Doncaster on Thursday 6th May 2021 as well as those postponed from 2020 are as follows:
 - Borough Elected Mayor
 - all-out Borough Councillors
 - all-out Town/Parish Councillors
 - Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Edenthorpe Neighbourhood Planning Referendum
8. Early planning meetings have begun to take place with the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) for the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), which is Barnsley Councils Chief Executive. The PARO is personally legally responsible for the co-ordination of the delivery of the election across South Yorkshire and is required to discharge specific functions including the publication of statutory notices, nomination of candidates, printing of ballot papers (although this will be delegated to the Local Returning Officer), approval and collation of verification and count figures and the declaration of result. At a recent meeting, all four Authorities agreed to publish the Notice of Election for all polls as early as possible to allow Nominations for all elections to open for a longer period of time to help those such as Doncaster with many polls taking place. It is expected that this will be w/c 22nd March 2021, the final date for publication is the 30th March 2021. Early planning arrangements indicate that the PCC Count will take place on Monday 10th May 2021.
9. Although the dates and times have not yet been set, is expected that the Counts for all Elections will take place separately at Doncaster Racecourse on the following days:
 - Thursday 6th May 2021
Following the close of Poll - verification of all ballot papers for Elected Mayor, Borough Cllrs, Town/Parish Cllrs, Police and Crime Commissioner elections and Edenthorpe NPR, followed by the counting of the Mayoral ballot papers.
 - Friday 7th May 2021
Counting of Borough Cllr ballot papers.
 - Saturday 8th May 2021
Counting of Town/Parish Cllr and Edenthorpe Neighbourhood Planning Referendum ballot papers.
 - Monday 10th May 2021
Counting of the Police and Crime Commissioner ballot papers.
10. There is likely to be an increase in Postal Vote requests due to the pandemic, which will impact on sending application forms out, processing applications within the electoral services team, printing and despatch pressures on our print provider and the processing and sorting returned postal votes over a short period of time. Past elections have proved we have higher returns from postal voters compared to polling stations and will impact on the higher turnout of votes to count when there are 5 polls for some electors.

11. All polling stations which were booked for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, have been postponed to next year. Extra steps will need to be carried out to ensure polling stations are Covid compliant; this includes carrying out Risk Assessments to ensure the safety of those staff working and those electors voting in the polling station. The Racecourse has been booked to undertake the counting of votes over four days. Plans are in place to start to carry out early recruitment and training should the need for social distancing still be in place on-line training sessions will be carried out.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

12. 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

13.

Outcomes	Implications
<p>Doncaster Working: 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"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	
<p>Doncaster Living: 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"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	
<p>Doncaster Learning: 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"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or 	

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

14. 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: SRF Date: 16/11/2020]

15. 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
 - Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: PH Date: 16/11/2020]

16. Any costs associated from the cancellation of the Police and Crime Commissioner Election or the Edenthorpe Neighbourhood Planning

Referendum along with future costs from next year will be claimed from Government and will not be a pressure on the Council's budget. Where possible anything that can be re-used when the election/referendum takes place have been kept.

The cost of the Mayoral and Borough Cllr elections will be at a cost to the Council and the cost of the Town/Parish Cllrs will be re-charged to each Town/Parish Council separately.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

17. Human Resources implications have not been requested.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

18. Technology implications have not been requested.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

19. Health implications have not been requested.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: TB Date 13/11/2020]

20. 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

21. N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. Previous EDSC reports.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

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