



Doncaster Council

Report

10th July 2018

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

ELECTION RESULTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides Members with a detailed update and the results of the Combined Authority Mayoral Election held on Thursday 3rd May 2018 and the Town By-Election and Edlington Neighbourhood Planning Referendum held on Thursday 14th June 2018.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

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 national and local government.

BACKGROUND

5. Elections are a significant project, 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.

Combined Authority Mayoral Election – 3rd May 2018

6. In 2014 the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority was established. Led by the nine council leaders, this brought together the four 'constituent' South Yorkshire authorities with Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales and North East Derbyshire as 'non-constituent' members. The Combined Authority Mayor will work with these leaders to deliver the area's economic development, regeneration and transport priorities to drive the growth of the economy. This was the first time the Combined Authority elected a Mayor for the Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Combined Authority. The successful candidate is elected for a four-year term, with the next election due to take place in 2022.

Like our elected Mayor the supplementary voting system was used which means electors had two votes in this election – one for their first choice candidate and one, if they wish to use it, for their second choice candidate.

The Terms of Reference of this Committee provide an overview of Electoral Services issues. Set out below are the detailed results and turnout in relation to this election for the Doncaster area:

There was an electorate of 223,261 of which 59,050 were postal voters. On polling day 16,626 (10.12%) electors cast their vote in the 159 polling stations across Doncaster and 28,148 (47.67%) voted by post. (A further 521 postal vote packs were rejected due to the personal identifiers not matching). A total of 44,774 ballot papers were verified giving a total turnout of 20.05% for the Doncaster area. The total turnout for all four South Yorkshire Authorities was 260,260 (25.82%).

Due to no candidate receiving more than 50% of the first preference votes, the count went to the second stage and the results were all combined with the other four Authorities and Dan Jarvis was elected as the first Combined Authority Mayor.

A full breakdown of the results and turnout can be found at **Appendix A** of this report, along with a breakdown of Doncaster's totals. For a further breakdown by each authority please visit the Sheffield City Region web page at: <https://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/2018/05/04/mayoral-election-results/>

Local Government Election – Town ward – 14th June 2018

7. Due to the resignation of a sitting Councillor a vacancy occurred for a Ward Councillor in the Town ward. A By-Election was called by two local government electors to fill the vacancy by holding an election. This report provides a detailed update to Members on the election and results.

There was an eligible electorate of 12,883 electors of which 2,793 had Postal Votes issued and 1,304 (46.69%) were returned and personal identifiers correctly verified. A further 17 postal votes were rejected and those electors will be notified accordingly. As well as those Postal Votes issued there were ten polling stations on polling day which 1022 (10.13%) electors visited to vote.

In total 2,326 electors cast their vote, of which 8 were rejected for voting for more than one candidate and 1 for being unmarked or void for uncertainty, marking a turnout of 18.05%.

There were six candidates and Tosh McDonald was elected as a Councillor for the Town ward; a full breakdown of the results can be found at **Appendix B** of this report.

Edlington Neighbourhood Planning Referendum – 14th June 2018

8. The Council's third Neighbourhood Planning Referendum election took place in Edlington on Thursday 14th June 2018. The purpose of this report is to provide an evaluation of the referendum.

There was an eligible electorate of 5,499 electors of which 1,461 had Postal Votes issued and 510 (34.91%) were returned and personal identifiers correctly verified. A further 7 postal votes were rejected and those electors will be notified accordingly. As well as those Postal Votes issued there were three polling stations on polling day which 105 (2.6%) electors visited to vote.

In total 615 electors cast their vote, of which 1 was rejected for voting for more than one answer and 3 for being unmarked, marking a turnout of 11.18%.

The outcome of the Referendum was in favour of using the Neighbourhood Plan for Edlington to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area. A full breakdown of the results can be found at **Appendix C** of this report.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9. Elections are a statutory function and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

10. This report is primarily for information only.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

- 11.

	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</p>	

	<p>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 	<p>The Council has statutory duties to support elections</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

12. Ensuring the necessary arrangements are in place to deliver well-run elections improves our reputation and meeting the Electoral Commission's Performance Standards.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SRF Date 20/6/18]

13. The arrangements detailed in this report are designed to ensure compliance with a range of statutory duties including:
 - The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Orders 2016, 2017 & 2018
 - Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006
 - Representation of the People Acts 1983, 1985 and 2000
 - Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013
 - The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PH Date 20/6/18]

14. The costs associated with the Combined Authority Mayoral Election are claimed back from Sheffield City Region.

The costs associated with the Town ward by-election are at a cost to the Council which is expected to be around £10,000.

The Council's Planning Department pay for the costs associated with a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum, which is then claimed back from Government.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

15. N/A

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

16. N/A

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

17. N/A

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials TB Date 19/06/18]

18. The Council has a duty to ensure Elections and Referendums 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

19. N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

20. Previous EDSC reports.

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