

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

**RESULTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL, BOROUGH COUNCIL,
AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS HELD ON 7th MAY 2015**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To report to the Council the results of the Parliamentary General, Borough Council and Parish Council Elections held on Thursday, 7th May 2015

RECOMMENDATION

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

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. National and local 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

4. This combined poll was the largest election ever seen in Doncaster and, according to the Electoral Commission, was the UK's biggest combination of polls since 1979.
5. The size of the poll and the additional factors contributing to the scale of the exercise are due to a combination of factors:-
 - A decision by the Secretary of State to have all-out local elections for the first time
 - An electoral review which resulted in a reduction in the number of Borough Councillors from 63 down to 55, together with revised ward boundaries
 - A Parliamentary Election involving a Party Leader with all of the attendant logistical issues, including liaison with the Police and the extensive media presence. 140 accredited media representatives attended the count providing local, national and international coverage.
 - 23 contested all-out parish elections.

6. Members present at the count will appreciate that a significant feature of the all-out elections was the need to utilise counting sheets rather than simply allocating single vote ballot papers to the relevant candidate. This inevitably adds to the time taken to accurately conclude the count. The Parliamentary count was undertaken at the close of poll. It is a legal requirement that the verification of all three polls has to be complete before the Parliamentary results can be declared. The three Parliamentary results were declared between 5:30 am and 6:00 am. The count of the Local election was undertaken on Friday 8th May with a recount of one ward taking place on Saturday 9th May, alongside the count for the 23 separate parish elections. A review of our arrangements will be undertaken shortly and any lessons learnt carried forward into our planning for future elections. Overall, the elections were successfully delivered with a very significant contribution made by individuals and teams throughout the Council. A number of positive comments have been made by Candidates and Agents in relation to the election process and, specifically, the verification and counts.

Turnout

7. The overall turnout for the 3 Parliamentary constituencies was as follows:-

Don Valley	-	59.83%
Doncaster Central	-	57.11%
Doncaster North	-	55.88%

These figures include the postal vote where the established trend of a high proportion of postal votes was continued. A total of 61,389 postal vote packs were issued and 49,173 (80%) statements were returned. Of these, 968 (1.6%) statements were rejected. For a postal vote statement to be valid, the elector must supply their signature and date of birth and these must match the information provided on the application form held on record. The date of birth must match exactly, although signatures are accepted if they are similar in shape and only rejected when the signature is effectively a completely different shape.

8. Of the 968 statements rejected, 464 cases had not had the statement completed at all, in 148 cases neither the signature nor the date of birth matched the application form, in 250 cases the date of birth did not match the application form and in 34 cases the signature did not match the application form.
9. Electors who had their postal vote statement rejected will be informed within 3 months of the poll that their postal vote was rejected. This being due to the signature or date of birth supplied on the postal voting statement failing to match the information held on record or where the voter had simply left the statement blank. A new postal vote application form will be sent to the voter for completion.

Results

10. A summary of the results is set out at **Appendix A**. The results, including the number of votes for each candidate and the % turnout, are published on the Council's website. This includes all Parish Council results.

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/sections/councilanddemocracy/votingelectionsanddemocracy/ElectionResults/index.aspx>

A list of the new and former Members is attached at Appendix B. Council will note that the former Members include a number of Members with many years' service and commitment to the Borough and its citizens.

Evaluation

11. An evaluation of the elections is to be undertaken and Members are invited to contribute by contacting Roger Harvey, Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services, with any comments by the end of June 2015. The results of the evaluation will be reported to the Elections and Democratic Structures Committee in July 2015.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

12. All elections are a statutory duty and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are comprehensive statutory provisions covering the delivery of the elections.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. Costs will be shared with the Cabinet Office where applicable.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

15. The Council has worked hard to ensure that voting is accessible to all. A Polling Places review was carried out in 2015 and all Polling Stations are compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. All Polling Stations were supplied with large print elections stationery and magnifiers to assist the visually impaired. Ramps were provided to ensure access by wheelchair users and those with mobility issues. Presiding Officers were given guidance at their training sessions as to how to assist electors to vote in the unlikely event that they were unable to access the Polling Station. Postal votes are also available to any resident that is on the Electoral Register.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

16. The Council's ICT Department was heavily involved in the election effort. A Council network was installed at the Count venue in order to ensure that connectivity was maintained. Each Senior Counter was issued with a laptop to support the count process and the Council's XPress elections software utilised. Newly elected Councillors will receive ICT training in order to assist them to carry out their duties as Members.

HR IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no significant HR implications associated with reporting the outcome of the 2015 elections.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTORS

Roger Harvey
Assistant Director
Legal and Democratic Services
Tel: 01302 734646

Jo Miller
Returning Officer

APPENDIX A

Results for the Local Government Elections held on 7th May 2015

Ward	Elected	Description	% turnout
Adwick & Carcroft	Rachel Hodson Ted Kitchen John Mounsey	Labour Party Labour Party Labour Party	53.67
Armthorpe	Tony Corden Christopher McGuinness Sue McGuinness	Labour Party Labour Party Labour Party	54.53
Balby South	Nuala Mary Fennelly John Healy	Labour Party Labour Party	52.36
Bentley	Charlie Hogarth Bill Mordue Jane Nightingale	Labour Party Labour Party Labour Party	51.08
Bessacarr	Nick Allen Neil Gethin Majid Khan	The Conservative Party Candidate Labour Party Labour Party	62.61
Conisbrough	Nigel Ball Sandra Mary Holland Craig Bernard Sahman	Labour Party Labour Party Labour Party	56.72
Edenthorpe & Kirk Sandall	David Neveit Tony Revill	Labour Party Labour Party	61.05
Edlington & Warmsworth	Elsie Butler Phil Cole	Labour Party Labour Party	58.45
Finningley	Jane Cox Steve Cox Allan Jones	The Conservative Party Candidate The Conservative Party Candidate The Conservative Party Candidate	66.24
Hatfield	Jessie Jamieson Credland Linda Curran Pat Knight	UK Independence Party Labour Party Labour Party	58.08
Hexthorpe & Balby North	Glyn Jones Sue Wilkinson	Labour Party Labour Party	49.17
Mexborough	Bev Chapman Sean Gibbons Andy Pickering	Put Mexborough First The Forgotten Town Put Mexborough First The Forgotten Town Put Mexborough First The Forgotten Town	52.25
Norton & Askern	Iris Beech Alan Jones Austin William White	Labour Party Labour Party Labour Party	62.05

Roman Ridge	Pat Haith Kevin Rodgers	Labour Party Labour Party	60.24
Rossington & Bawtry	Rachel Blake John Cooke Clive Stone	Labour Party Independent UK Independence Party	58.07
Sprotbrough	Cynthia Anne Ransome Jonathan Wood	The Conservative Party Candidate The Conservative Party Candidate	66.84
Stainforth & Barnby Dun	George Derx Ken Keegan	Labour Party Labour Party	56.13
Thorne & Moorends	Joe Blackham Susan Jane Durant Mark Houlbrook	Labour Party Labour Party Labour Party	54.25
Tickhill & Wadworth	James Vincent Hart Alan Smith	The Conservative Party Candidate The Conservative Party Candidate	67.27
Town	Sue Knowles John McHale Dave Shaw	Labour Party Labour Party Labour Party	51.83
Wheatley Hills & Intake	Eva Hughes Jane Kidd Paul Wray	Labour Party Labour Party Labour Party	52.39

Results for the Parliamentary General Election held on 7th May 2015

Constituency	Elected	Description
Don Valley	Caroline Louise Flint	Labour Party
Doncaster Central	Rosie Winterton	Labour Party
Doncaster North	Ed Miliband	Labour Party

Don Valley Turnout 59.83%

Doncaster Central Turnout 57.11%

Doncaster North Turnout 55.88%

APPENDIX B

NEW MEMBERS	WARD		FORMER MEMBERS	WARD
Nick Allen	Bessacarr		Paul Bissett	Edenthorpe, Kirk Sandall and Barnby Dun
Nigel Ball	Conisbrough		Susan Bolton	Adwick
Rachel Blake	Rossington & Bawtry		Andrew Bosmans	Balby
Bev Chapman	Mexborough		Paul Coddington	Bessacarr & Cantley
Jane Cox	Finningley		Richard Cooper-Holmes	Rossington
Steve Cox	Finningley		Monty Cuthbert	Bessacarr & Cantley
Jessie Credland	Hatfield		Bob Ford	Torne Valley
George Derx	Stainforth & Barnby Dun		Fred Gee	Edenthorpe, Kirk Sandall and Barnby Dun
Susan Jane Durant	Thorne & Moorends		Barbara Hedley	Stainforth & Moorends
Sean Gibbons	Mexborough		Barbara Hoyle	Torne Valley
John Healy	Balby South		Deborah Hutchinson	Great North Road
Majid Khan	Bessacarr		Frank Jackson	Bentley
David Nevett	Edenthorpe & Kirk Sandall		Mick Jameson	Balby
Clive Stone	Rossington & Bawtry		Bob Johnson	Edlington & Warmsworth
			Tracey Leyland Jepson	Mexborough
			Hilary McNamee	Rossington
			Chris Mills	Conisbrough & Denaby
			Sue Phillips	Mexborough
			Patricia Schofield	Finningley
			John Sheppard	Wheatley
			Martin Williams	Thorne
			Yvonne Woodcock	Finningley