



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 20th May, 2022

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

RESULTS OF THE LOCAL BOROUGH BY-ELECTION HELD ON 31 MARCH 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To report to the Council the results of the Wheatley Hills and Intake Ward By-Election held on Thursday 31 March, 2022.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. No.

RECOMMENDATION

3. 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?

4. 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 local government.

BACKGROUND

5. Elections and Referendums are significant projects, which are delivered by a small Electoral Services core team with polling stations supported by internal staff from across the Council.
6. Due to resignation of a sitting Councillor a vacancy occurred for a Borough Councillor for the Wheatley Hills and Intake 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.

7. There was an eligible electorate of 12,933 electors of which 2,879 were issued with Postal Votes and 1,264 (43.90%) were returned. As well as those Postal Votes issued there were ten polling stations on polling day which 536 (5.33%) electors visited to cast their vote.
8. In total 1,800 electors cast their vote, of which 1 was rejected for voting for more than one candidate and 2 for being unmarked or void for uncertainty, marking a turnout of 13.92%.
9. There were five candidates and Yetunde Elebuibon was duly elected Councillor for the Wheatley Hills and Intake ward; a full breakdown of the results can be found below:-

RESULTS

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes
ANGUS Michael Lindsay	The Conservative Party Candidate	419
BUDDEN Andy	Yorkshire Party	356
ELEBUIBON Yetunde	Labour Party	827 elected
ROZENFELDS Jennifer Joanne	Green Party	135
SOUTHALL Dean Peter	Liberal Democrats	60

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	1
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
D unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	2
Total	3

Electorate: 12,933	Ballot Papers Issued: 1,800	Turnout: 13.92 %
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OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

10. All Elections 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

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 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> <p>The running of successful elections makes a positive contribution to the Council's objective of increasing participation in democracy.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. Although there are no specific legal implications associated with this report there are comprehensive statutory provisions covering the delivery of Borough Elections.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report. The costs associated with local elections are expected to be contained within existing budgets.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no significant HR implications associated with reporting the outcome of this by-election.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

16. None requested.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no Health implications associated with reporting the outcome of this by-elections.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

18. The Council has worked hard to ensure that voting is accessible to all. A full Polling Places review was carried out in 2019 and full risk assessment reviews in 2021 to ensure all Polling Stations are compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. All Polling Stations were supplied with tactile voting devices, 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 session and provided with a handbook as to how to assist electors to vote in the unlikely event that they were unable to access the Polling Station. Electors are also able to apply for a Postal Vote if they were unable to attend a polling station. Electoral Services continually review arrangements and look to improve these where possible.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous Council reports.

REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTORS

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