



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 22 November 2022

To: The Chair and Members of the

ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

Report Title: Elections Update

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources	Hatfield Ward	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides members with detailed information and results from the Hatfield - Dunscroft Ward Town Council by-election which took place on Thursday 25 August 2022.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Election has taken place and this report is for information only.
4. 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?

5. Having accessible and well-organised elections and referendums are 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

6. Elections are a significant project and by-elections are carried out by the small core Elections Team with the assistance of internal staff usually from within the Legal & Democratic Services department to work on polling stations.
7. Due to a resignation a vacancy occurred and was advertised for a Town Councillor in Hatfield for the Duncroft Ward. Doncaster Council received the necessary request from at least ten electors within the Duncroft area to fill the vacancy by holding an election.
8. The eligible electorate was 4,980 electors of which 1,375 were postal voters and of those, 400 postal votes (29.09%) were returned and personal identifiers correctly verified, a further 9 postal votes were rejected due to not containing a signature.
9. On polling day 72 (2%) electors cast their vote in the two polling stations, adding that to the postal voters gave a total of 472 ballot papers verified and a total turnout of 9.48%. 6 Ballot papers were rejected, 1 for voting for more than one Candidate and 5 rejected for being unmarked or void for uncertainty.
10. There were three candidates and Christopher Taylorson (commonly known as Chris Taylo) was duly elected Councillor for Hatfield Town Council – Duncroft Ward; a full breakdown of the results can be found below:

11. Results

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes*
BEADLE Tim	Independent	71
MCVAY Rob	Independent	83
TAYLO Chris		312 elected

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	5
Total	6

Electorate: 4,980	Ballot Papers Issued: 472	Turnout: 9.48 %
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NOMINATION UPDATE

12. On 9 November 2022 [The Local Elections \(Principal Areas\) \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(England\) Rules 2022](#) reduce the number of subscribing electors that are required on a candidate nomination paper for elections of councillors of a principal area in England from ten to two, and substitute new

forms reflecting this change. These changes come into effect for elections and by-elections taking place on or after 4 May 2023 onwards.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED


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




REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

14. This report is primary for information only.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

15.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments:				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
Comments:				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments:				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
Comments:				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner				✓

communities where everyone belongs				
Comments:				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
Comments:				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Comments:				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments:				
Fair & Inclusive	✓			
<p>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. 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 on 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.</p>				

Legal Implications [Officer Initials: SRF | Date: 11/11/2022]

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, 2014, 2018
- The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2014, 2015 and 2018
- Representation of the People Acts 1983, 1985 and 2000

Financial Implications [Officer Initials: PH | Date: 10/11/2022]

17. All costs associated with this By-election are claimed back from Hatfield Town Council.

Human Resources Implications

18. There are no Human Resources Implications arising from this report.

Technology Implications

19. There are no Technology Implications arising from this report.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

CONSULTATION

21. Not applicable

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. Declaration of results and count paperwork.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

23. Not applicable

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