



Report

Date: 18th January 2024

To the Chair and All Members of the Council

Report Title: Results of the Rossington and Bawtry Ward By-Election held on 16 November 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To report to the Council the results of the Rossington and Bawtry ward By-Election held on 16 November 2023.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This is not an exempt report.

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. Due to the resignation of a sitting Councillor a vacancy occurred for a City Councillor for the Rossington and Bawtry ward which was called by two local government electors to fill the vacancy by holding an election.



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.

ROSSINGTON AND BAWTRY WARD BY-ELECTION

6. There was an eligible electorate of 13,473 electors of which 3,585 were issued with Postal Votes and 1,984 (55.34%) were returned and personal identifiers correctly verified. A further 5 postal votes were rejected due to having the incorrect date of birth and those electors will be notified accordingly.

The total number of ballot papers verified for both polling stations and postal votes were 2,599 giving a total turnout of 19.29%.

There were four candidates and Ken Guest was duly elected as City of Doncaster Councillor for the Rossington and Bawtry ward; a full breakdown of the results can be found below:

7. RESULTS

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes
COOKE John Nolan	Independent	461
DUHRE Surjit Singh	Reform UK	168
GREENHALGH Carol	The Conservative Party Candidate	492
GUEST Ken	Labour Party	1467 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	9
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
D unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	2
Total	11

Electorate: 13,473	Ballot Papers Issued: 2,599	Turnout: 19.29%
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OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8. Elections and Referendums are a statutory function and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements. To support the Elections Act changes all polling station staff undertook a lengthy training session dedicated to Voter ID and accessibility in the polling station. Extra polling staff were also appointed to busier polling stations as recommended by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).




REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

9. This report is primary for information only.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

- 10.

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	✓			
Comments: 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.				

11. Legal Implications [Officer Initials: SRF | Date: 08/01/2024]

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
- Elections Act 2022

12. Financial Implications [Officer Initials: PH | Date: 08/01/2024]

The government have committed to providing New Burdens Funding to local authorities via Section 31 Grants to cover the increased costs resulting from implementing measures in the Elections Act 2022. Funding was used to pay for privacy ID booths, mirrors, extra poll clerks and towards extra training of staff.

All other costs associated with the Rossington and Bawtry ward by-election are contained within existing budgets.

13. Human Resources Implications

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

14. Technology Implications

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

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

15. Ensuring the necessary arrangements are in place to ensure the Council, RO and ERO meets the Electoral Commission's Performance Standards and complies with their legal statutory duties. Delivering well-run elections improve our reputation and meeting the Electoral Commission's Performance Standards. All Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks undertook a lengthy training session dedicated to voter ID and accessibility in advance of working on polling stations. All Polling Stations were supplied with a privacy ID booth, mirror, tactile voting devices, large print elections stationery, pencils with grips and magnifiers to assist the visually impaired. 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.

CONSULTATION

16. Not applicable

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. EDSC report

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

18.

ERO	Electoral Registration Officer
RO	Returning Officer
DLUHC	The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
VAC	Voter Authority Certificate

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