

13th May, 2016

To the Chair and Members of the COUNCIL

RESULTS OF THE EDENTHORPE AND KIRK SANDALL BY-ELECTION HELD ON 5TH MAY 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. To report to the Council the results of the Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall Ward By-Election held on Thursday, 5th May 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Council is asked to note the report.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. 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. A By-election was held in the Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall Ward following the sad death of Councillor Tony Revill, of the Labour Party on 1st March, 2016. Councillor Revill served as a Councillor for almost 5 years, having been first elected in May 2011 and re-elected in the May 2015 Local Borough elections.

Results and Turnout

5. A summary of the results and turnout for the By-Election in the Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall Ward is set out below, which includes the number of votes for each candidate and the % turnout. The results have also been published on the Council's website:-

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/the-council-democracy/edenthorpe-and-kirk-sandall-by-election-5-may-2016>

Results for the By-Election in the Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall Ward held on 5th May 2016

Candidates	Description	Votes Cast	% turnout
Paul Bissett	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	960	32.96%
Martin Greenhalgh	The Conservative Party	268	
Stephen Porter	Liberal Democrat	202	
Andrea Robinson	Labour Party	1,148 - Elected	

6. 2,591 residents of 7,862 eligible to vote in the Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall ward cast their votes, marking a turnout of 32.96%.
7. Councillor Andrea Robinson is duly elected as the ward member for Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall after winning the by-election on Friday.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8. The holding of elections is a statutory duty and must be carried out in accordance with statutory requirements.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are comprehensive statutory provisions covering the process of holding elections.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

11. 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. 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. The Presiding Officer was 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 on the Electoral Register.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

12. 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

13. There are no significant HR implications associated with reporting the outcome of the 2016 By-Election in the Edenthorpe and Kirk Sandall Ward.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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