

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

ELECTORAL SERVICES UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update to Members on recent Elections that have taken place since the last meeting.
 - Police and Crime Commissioner Election - 5th May 2016
 - Edenthorpe & Kirk Sandall By-Election – 5th May 2016
 - Hatfield Town Council – Dunscroft Ward By-Election – 5th May 2016
 - EU Referendum - 23rd June 2016
 - Bawtry Town Council – 30th June 2016
 - Thorne – Moorends Town Council – Thorne Town Ward – 30th June 2016

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. 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?

3. Having accessible and well organised elections is 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. All six Elections were a huge success and excellent feedback has been received.

BACKGROUND

4. The Terms of Reference of this Committee provide an overview of Electoral Services issues. Set out below is the current position in respect of recent and current activity.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTION – 5TH MAY 2016

5. The Election for a South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner took place on Thursday 5th May 2016. Barnsley Council was the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) in charge for South Yorkshire and collated the votes given from the four Local Authorities.
6. Verification took place after the close of poll at 10.00pm, the receipt of the 158 ballot boxes was smooth and quick with the last box delivered by 22:55. This meant that any postal vote packs handed in at the polling station and brought to the count by presiding officers were processed quickly and back to the Count in order to verify by 23:20.

7. The counting of votes commenced on Friday 6th May and the four Local Authorities votes were then collated together - Alan Billings, the Labour Party candidate, has been elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire.
8. 43,915 residents of 218,043 eligible to vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner Election cast their votes, marking a turnout of 20.14%. 726 Ballot Papers were rejected. 58,394 Postal Votes were issued of which 28,193 were returned 48.28% (this does not include any rejected).
9. A full Breakdown of the results are as follows:

Results

Candidate's Surname	Other Name(s)	Electoral Area	Party	Doncaster First Count Votes	Total Regional Votes
ALLEN	David Stewart	Doncaster	English Democrats - "More Police - catching criminals!"	4,558	19,144
BILLINGS	Alan Roy	Sheffield	Labour Party Candidate	20,805	144,978 Elected
FELTON	Gavin Patrick	Barnsley	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	10,106	57,062
OTTEN	Joe	Sheffield	Liberal Democrats	1,645	28,060
WALKER	Ian Geoffrey	Sheffield	The Conservative Party Candidate	6,074	29,904

Doncaster Turnout = 20.14%

Total Turnout (South Yorkshire) = 29.48%

EDENTHORPE & KIRK SANDALL BY-ELECTION – 5TH MAY 2016

10. A By-election was held on Thursday 5th May 2016 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 has a Councillor for almost 5 years, having been first elected in May 2011 and re-elected in the May 2015 Local Borough elections.

Results

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	

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%.

HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL - DUNSCROFT WARD – 5TH MAY 2016

11. A By-election was held for Hatfield Town Council – Dunscroft Ward on Thursday 5th May 2016.

Results

Candidates	Description	Votes Cast	% turnout
Nigel Bennett	Independent	211	22.90%
Keith Jacques	UK Independence Party (UKIP)	379	
Ronald Powell	Labour Party	576 - Elected	

1,169 residents of 5,104 eligible to vote in the Hatfield Town Council – Dunscroft Ward cast their votes, marking a turnout of 22.90%.

EUROPEAN UNION REFRENDUM – 23RD JUNE 2016

12. A referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union took place on Thursday 23rd June 2016. Leeds City Council was the Regional Counting Officer for Yorkshire and The Humber Region and collated the results for our area to feed into the total result for all 382 local areas.

13. The Verification and counting of ballot papers took place at Doncaster Racecourse on Thursday 23rd June 2016 at the close of poll from 10.00pm and throughout the night. The receipt of the 173 ballot boxes was smooth and quick with the last box delivered by 23:03. This meant that any postal vote packs handed in at the polling station and brought to the count by presiding officers were processed quickly and back to the count in order to verify by 23:25.

Results

Doncaster votes to LEAVE by 69%

Response	Votes Cast	% turnout total
REMAIN	46,922 (31.02%)	69.56%
LEAVE	104,260 (68.94%)	

Electorate: 217,422

14. 151,246 residents of 217,422 eligible to vote in the EU Referendum cast their votes, marking a turnout of 69.56%. 64 Ballot Papers were rejected. 61,784 Postal Votes were issued of which 54,244 were returned 87.80% (this does not include any rejected).

15. It is not possible to give a breakdown by Ward/Constituency as each counting team had a mixture of Postal Votes from across the Doncaster area included in their result.

16. **Yorkshire and the Humber** votes to LEAVE by 58%

Response	Votes Cast	% turnout total
REMAIN	1,158,298 (42.25%)	70.69%
LEAVE	1,580,937 (57.67%)	

Electorate: 3,877,780

17. **National** result was to LEAVE by 52%

Response	Votes Cast	% turnout total
REMAIN	16,141,241 (48.1%)	72.2%
LEAVE	17,410,742 (51.9%)	

Total Electorate: 46,500,001

BAWTRY TOWN COUNCIL – 30TH JUNE 2016

18. A By-election was held for two vacancies for Bawtry Town Council on Thursday 30th June 2016.

Results

Candidates	Description	Votes Cast	% turnout
Gary John Bates	Independent	198	17.50%
Gilbert Eric Budgen	Independent	250 - Elected	
George Edward Scott	Bawtry Residents Group	356 - Elected	

488 residents of 2,788 eligible to vote in the Bawtry Town Council Ward cast their votes, marking a turnout of 17.50%.

THORNE – MOORENDS TOWN COUNCIL – THORNE TOWN WARD 30TH JUNE 2016

19. A By-election was held for two vacancies for Thorne – Moorends Town Council – Thorne Town Ward on Thursday 30th June 2016.

Results

Candidates	Description	Votes Cast	% turnout
Peter Best	Thorne`s Best	287	14.64%
John Bruce Edward Phillips	Labour Party	499	
Gordon William Powell	The Community Group	647 - Elected	
Ronald Powell	Labour Party	522	
Irene Anne Sloman	The Community Group	566 - Elected	

1,351 residents of 9,231 eligible to vote in the Thorne-Moorends Town Council – Thorne Town Ward cast their votes, marking a turnout of 14.64%.

20. A further Election will also take place in Thorne-Moorends Town Council – Thorne Town Ward for one vacancy on Thursday 28th July.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

21. All of the above 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

22.

Outcome	Implications
Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.	By ensuring the necessary arrangements are in place to deliver well-run elections and improving our reputation by meeting the Electoral Commission’s Performance Standards.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

23. Sufficient resources will need to be made available to run two Elections so close together and to continue to drive individual registration in order to ensure that the Council complies with its legal duties detailed above.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

24. 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
- Representation of the People Acts 1983, 1985 and 2000
- Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

25. The costs of both the Police and Crime Commissioner and EU Referendum elections will be claimed from Government and the Town Council Elections will be claimed back from the Parish Councils.

REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTRIBUTORS

Trina Barber
Interim Team Leader
Electoral Services
Legal & Democratic Services
Tel: 01302 724398
E-mail: Trina.Barber@doncaster.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous EDSC reports
Electoral Commission Referendum Results

Jo Miller
Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer