CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON C O U N C I L

Governance and Ethics Committee

14 January 2022

Time 10.00 am **Public Meeting?** Yes **Type of meeting** Advisory group

Venue Council Chamber - 4th Floor - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr John Reynolds (Lab)
Vice Chair Cllr Jonathan Crofts (Con)

Labour Conservative

Cllr Dr Paul John Birch J.P.

Cllr Claire Darke

Cllr Celia Hibbert Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal

Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE

Cllr Simon Bennett Cllr Wendy Thompson

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Donna Cope

Tel/Email 01902 554452 or Email: donna.cope@wolverhampton.gov.uk **Address** Democratic Services, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No.	Title
1	Apologies for absence
2	Declarations of interest
3	Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 3 - 8) [To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 December 2021 as a correct record].
4	Matters arising [To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting].
5	Preparations for May 2022 Local Elections (Pages 9 - 22) [To note the preparations underway for the May 2022 elections]
6	Local Election Fees and Charges 2022-2023 (Pages 23 - 30) [To approve the proposed schedule of fees for May 2022 as shown in Appendix 1]
7	Evaluation of 2021 Annual Canvass (Pages 31 - 36) [To provide feedback on the 2021 annual canvass]
8	Update from Monitoring Officer [To receive an update from the Monitoring Officer - Report to follow]
9	Annual Report on Code of Conduct Matters [To receive an update on Code of Conduct matters - Report to follow]
10	Changes to the Constitution [To consider changes to the Constitution - Report to follow]

Agenda Item No: 3

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON C O U N C I L

Governance and Ethics Committee

Minutes - 10 December 2021

Attendance

Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee

Cllr John Reynolds (Chair)

Cllr Jonathan Crofts (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Dr Paul John Birch J.P.

Cllr Celia Hibbert

Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal

Cllr Rita Potter (Virtually)

Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE

Cllr Wendy Thompson

Cllr Ellis Turrell (Substitute Member)

Employees

David Pattison Chief Operating Officer

Jai Ghai (Virtually) Head of ICT

Laura Noonan (Virtually) Electoral Services Manager

Laura Gittos (Virtually) Head of Governance

Jacob Stokes Democratic Services Assistant

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. Title

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simon Bennett and Councillor Claire Darke.

Councillor Ellis Turrell attended the meeting as a substitute member for Councillor Bennett.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

5 Update from the Monitoring Officer on Governance Matters

David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on the work programme and other matters within the scope of the Governance and Ethics Committee's remit.

The Chief Operating Officer reported that preparations for the May 2022 election were already well underway, and a report would be brought to the next meeting. He noted that the overall canvass completion had increased, from 89% to 93.4% and an evaluation of the Annual Canvass would be brought to the next meeting.

The Chief Operating Officer noted that the final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) would be published on 11 January 2022, and that the Council would be writing to the Secretary of State to request the fallow year be moved to 2024.

The Chief Operating Officer noted that proposed changes to the Constitution would be brought to the next meeting, and that the Council was working through two nominations for Freedom of the City.

The Chief Operating Officer noted that the Council was committed to a pragmatic approach in the face of rising COVID case numbers, but that formal meetings must take place in person following the expiration of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and subsequent court case. He reported that the government had not brought forward any proposals in relation to virtual meetings.

The Chief Operating Officer outlined several Code of Conduct matters that would be brought to the next meeting.

Councillor John Reynolds moved the recommendation within the report. Councillor Jonathan Crofts seconded the recommendation.

Responding to questions, the Chief Operating Officer confirmed that complaint hearings would take place shortly, and an update would be brought to the next meeting in relation to individual complaints.

The Chief Operating Officer confirmed that Code of Conduct training would be taking place in the New Year, following discussions with both parties.

Resolved:

1. That the update from the Monitoring Officer be noted.

6 Freedom of the City

David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer, noted that a Freedom of the City nomination had been brought forward. He noted that this was the highest award the city could bestow on an individual.

Councillor John Reynolds move the recommendation in the report. Councillor Jonathan Crofts seconded the recommendation.

The Committee expressed their support for the proposal and commended Lisa Potts for her bravery.

Resolved:

1. That Council be recommended to convene an extraordinary meeting to bestow the honour of Freedom of the City to Lisa Potts in recognition of her exceptional bravery in saving children in the City of Wolverhampton and charity work.

7 Information presented to Independent Remuneration Panel

David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer, presented the report on the information that would be presented to the Independent Renumeration Panel (IRP), following a request from the Governance and Ethics Committee at a previous meeting.

He noted that the current scheme for Councillor allowances expires in 2022, and therefore a new scheme needs to be implemented.

He reported that comparative data from other Local Authorities had been compiled and would be sent to the IRP, as would Councillor responses to a questionnaire on the current scheme. He noted that the current response rate was about 50%.

Councillor John Reynolds forwarded the recommendation in the report and noted that he had requested that data on Birmingham and Medway be excluded as these Local Authorities significantly skewed the comparative data. Councillor Jonathan Crofts seconded the recommendation.

The Committee discussed the information appended to the report.

After discussion, it was agreed that data from neighbouring County Councils and Birmingham would be included with any data sent to the IRP. It was agreed that further survey work on Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) would be undertaken and included in any information sent to the IRP.

Councillor John Reynolds put forward a recommendation that the leadership of both parties be recommended to work together to ensure the IRP is provided with all the information it needs and that its outcome would be fair and equitable to both groups. Councillor Wendy Thompson seconded the recommendation.

The recommendation was carried.

Responding to questions, the Chief Operating Officer confirmed that the data on Birmingham and County Councils would be included in the information sent to the IRP. He noted that the deadline for Councillor responses to the questionnaire would be 31 December 2021, to prepare the information in advance of the meeting of the IRP.

The Chief Operating Officer noted that he was happy to include the suggestion that allowances be tied to yearly staff pay increases in the information sent to the IRP.

The Chief Operating Officer noted it was a sensible idea to provide further information on SRAs to the IRP but that it would be difficult to gain comparative data from other Local Authorities.

Resolved:

- 1. That the information to be presented to the Independent Renumeration Panel be noted.
- 2. That data on Member Allowances for County Councils and Birmingham City Council be included in the information sent to the Independent Renumeration Panel.
- 3. That additional details on Special Responsibility Allowances be provided to the Independent Renumeration Panel.

8 Electoral Services - Outcomes from Association of Electoral Administrators health check and postal vote audit

David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on the outcome of the external review of Electoral Services carried out by the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA).

The Chief Operating Officer noted that the AEA recognised that Wolverhampton had a strong Election Board but had made some recommendations. He noted that work on implementing these recommendations was already underway.

The Chief Operating Officer reported that an internal audit had also taken place to review the postal vote opening of the last election. He reported that the outcomes of the audit were positive and that actions had been identified to further strengthen processes. He noted that work was already underway to address these actions.

Laura Noonan, Electoral Services Manager, noted that the Electoral Services team had been constantly working on its improvement plan following the last election. She noted that the number of staff would be increased at the next election and training would be given to increase efficiency.

The Electoral Services Manager noted that a report on preparations for the May 2022 elections would be brought to the next meeting.

Councillor John Reynolds moved the recommendation in the report. Councillor Jonathan Crofts seconded the recommendation.

The Committee expressed thanks to the Electoral Services team for their hard work.

Responding to questions, the Chief Operating Officer reported that the review did not look at electronic voting as it was not covered by current legislation. He noted that there was a slight increase in turnout at the last election, and that the Council had contacted other Local Authorities to learn from their best practice and improve efficiency.

The Chief Operating Officer noted that postal voting redirections would be reviewed moving forward but stressed that fraud remained a tiny issue.

Resolved:

1. That the outcome of the external and internal review of Electoral Services functions be noted.

9 Annual report on Code of Conduct matters

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

10 Councillor Enquiries - Update including ICT and Digital Developments Roadmap

David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer, introduced a presentation on the Councillor Enquiries Unit (CEU) to highlight how issues identified at the last meeting would be tackled. He noted that Councillors would be involved heavily in any improvements made.

Laura Gittos, Head of Governance, updated Councillors on some key statistics from the CEU. She noted that 8% of enquiries were overdue and that a yearly review would be undertaken in future to gather data that would inform future decisions. She also noted that work had been undertaken with Wolverhampton Homes to reduce the number of overdue enquiries in that service.

The Head of Governance provided Councillors with an overview of the key actions taken. She noted that work was being done on the dashboard to ensure items are closed as quickly as possible and that all service standards would be reviewed in the New Year.

Jai Ghai, Head of Digital & IT, provided an update on the Digital Development of the CEU. He outlined short-, medium- and long-term actions to ensure the continued effectiveness and improvement of the CEU and the Councillor dashboard.

The Head of Digital & IT provided the Committee with some of the key achievements to date. He noted that a new directory was in the process of being configured and an update would be brought to a future meeting.

The Committee provided feedback on the CEU and offered suggestions on how the service could be improved.

The Chief Operating Officer noted that all feedback would be addressed. He assured Councillors that the CEU team was working hard to iron out any issues and speed up the process. He noted that data on enquiries by ward could be shared with Councillors.

The Head of Digital & IT informed the Committee that the team was happy to address any further training needs.

Councillor John Reynolds moved the recommendation. Councillor Jonathan Crofts seconded the recommendation.

Resolved:

1. That the presentation on the ICT and Digital Developments Roadmap of Councillor Enquiries be noted.

Agenda Item No: 5

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Governance and Ethics Committee

14 January 2022

Report title Preparations for May 2022 Local Elections

Cabinet member with lead

responsibility

Councillor Paula Brookfield

Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities

Accountable director David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer

Originating service Electoral Services

Accountable employee Laura Noonan Electoral Services Manager

01902 55 4939

Laura.Noonan@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Report has been considered by

Election Board

11 January 2022

Recommendation for action:

The Governance and Ethics Committee is recommended to:

1. Note and provide feedback on the preparations underway for the May 2022 elections.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on preparations underway for the local elections taking place on 5 May 2022.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On Thursday 5 May 2022, Local Elections are taking place in Wolverhampton, where a third of Councillor seats are up for election.
- 2.2 These will be the second set of polls to be held in Wolverhampton during the pandemic. The Electoral Commission have confirmed that their supplementary guidance relating to preparing for the polls against the background of the pandemic will still stand. They will not be issuing any further guidance unless the position changes.
- 2.3 The elections that took place in 2021 met the requirements set out in the Government's delivery plan. The Government has not yet issued any further guidance on the May 2022 polls.
- 2.4 Following the lessons learned exercise that was carried out after the May 2021 elections, including the recommendations made in the Association of Electoral Administrators health check report, a number of changes will be brought in for 2022 elections. The most notable changes will be to improve postal vote opening outlined in section 8 of this report, and to improve ballot box receipt processes, outlined in paragraph 9.4.

3.0 Risk management

- 3.1 The Election Board, chaired by the Returning Officer, now meets on a monthly basis all year round. From January May, the membership of this Board includes all of Strategic Executive Board in addition to all of the Deputy Returning Officers and members of Electoral Services.
- 3.2 A detailed risk register is reviewed at each board meeting. They key risk relating to this election continues to be operating in a covid secure environment, which is particularly challenging at the Count Venue due to the number of staff, candidates and agents in attendance.

4.0 Covid measures

- 4.1 Local Public Health Guidance has been sought and the planning for these elections will be based on the same principles for the 2021 elections in particular:
 - Inform voters that they have a choice between in person and absent voting
 - Voters may bring their own pen or pencil
 - Maximum ventilation in polling stations and count venue
 - Social distancing

- Perspex screens (where appropriate)
- Hand sanitiser
- Regular cleaning
- Mandatory lateral flow tests for staff
- Face coverings worn by staff
- Encouraged use of face coverings for electors
- 4.2 Since 10 December 2021, everyone entering a polling station and count venue is legally required to wear a face covering, unless they are exempt.
- 4.3 Everyone appointed to work election duties will be required to undertake two lateral flow tests prior to working one two days before and one on the day they are working.

 Standby staff will be recruited to mitigate against short notice staff drop-outs.
- 4.4 Candidates and agents are strongly encouraged to undertake a lateral flow test prior to attending the count.
- 4.5 The risk assessments from 2021 are currently being reviewed and updated by Electoral Services in conjunction with Public Health and Health and Safety. Public health arrangements will be shared in more detail in March.

5.0 Nominations

- 5.1 The Returning Officer will be holding a candidates and agents briefing on Monday 7 March 2022 for prospective candidates and agents. There will be also be a candidates and agents briefing held after the nomination period on Friday 8 April 2022 for all candidates standing for elections.
- 5.2 Last year, candidates were encouraged to submit scanned copies of nomination forms in advance for checking. This process worked well, and this option will be available for candidates to do this year before formally submitting their nomination papers.
- 5.3 The nomination process will remain the same as last year, with candidates and agents required to book an appointment, and there will be a Perspex screen in the room used to receive nominations.
- 5.4 The Notice of Election will be published at 9am on 24 March 2022. The nomination period will run from 10am on 24 March 4pm on 5 April 2022.

6.0 Registration

- 6.1 A registration and postal vote campaign will take place ahead of the critical deadline dates for this election primarily using all available online communication channels:
 - Deadline to register to vote: 14 April 2022

- Deadline to apply to vote by post: 5pm 19 April 2022
- Deadline to apply to vote by proxy: 5pm 25 April 2022

7.0 Polling stations

- 7.1 The draft schedule of polling stations has been shared with both groups for comments. This can be found in Appendix 1. Any decision to change the designated polling station will be made by the Returning Officer, in consultation with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition.
- 7.2 Booking letters have been sent to all polling stations in December, and 28% of these venues have confirmed so far. All polling stations must be finalised by 1 March 2022 in readiness for poll cards to be prepared.
- 7.3 The following nine polling stations will be returning to their usual designated polling station:

Ward	District/Station	Polling Station – May 2021	Polling station – May 2022
Bilston East	BEA/BE1	Loxdale Primary School	Bert Williams
Bilston East	BEB/BE2	Holy Trinity Catholic School	Bilston Seventh Day Adventist Church
Blakenhall	BOA/BO1	St Lukes Primary School	Bob Jones Community Hub
Bushbury South And Low Hill	BUE/BU5	Northwood Park Primary School	Collingwood Library
St Peters	SPF/SP6	Art Gallery	University Chaplaincy Building
Oxley	OXD/OX4	Priory Green Building	Pendeford Community Hub
Oxley	OXE/OX5	Priory Green Building	Pendeford Community Hub
Wednesfield South	WSF/WS6	Perry Hall Primary School	Wednesfield Christian Cer
Wednesfield North	WNC/WN3	Corpus Christi Social Centre	Ashmore Park Baptist Chu

7.4 It is proposed that the following nine stations that were used as polling stations in 2021 remain at this venue as a permanent change, primarily to reduce the use of schools as polling stations:

Ward	District/ Station	Designated polling station	Polling station used in 2021 and proposed for May 2022	Polling district
Bushbury North	BUC/BU3	Fordhouses Methodist Church (this building is no longer in use)	Baptist Church, Winchester Road	Same polling distric
Fallings Park	FPD/FP4	St Gregory the Great Church (they are not willing to be a polling station going forward)	Long Knowle Community Hub	In adjacent polling district – FPE.
Graiseley	GRB/GR2	Bantock Primary School	Bingley Strengthening Families Hub	Same polling distric
Merry Hill	MHE/MH5	Springdale Primary School	Warstones Library	Adjacent polling district - MHD
Oxley	OXA/OX1	Dovecotes Primary School	Pendeford Seventh-Day Adventist Church	Same polling district
Penn	PNA/PN1	Warstones Primary School	Warstones Library	In Merry Hill ward - MHD, but 0.2 miles from Warstones Primary.
St Peters	SPG/SP7	Civic Centre	Art Gallery	In same polling district
Spring Vale	SVF/SV6	Manor Primary School	Hurst Hill Methodist Church	Adjacent polling district - SVE
Wednesfield South	WSB/WS2	St Thomas's CE Primary School	Wednesfield Methodist Church	In Wednesfield North ward – WNA- – 0.4 miles away.

- 7.5 If all of the polling station proposals are accepted, 22 schools across the city would be used as polling stations, which is a reduction of a further 6 schools since May 2021.
- 7.6 All schools that have been booked as polling stations for May 2022 have been written to advising that they consider planning to use 5 May 2022 as an inset day or remote learning day if the school is not able to stay open on polling day.
- 7.7 Following the 2022 local elections, a full review of all polling districts and polling stations will be conducted following the boundary review, which will further try to reduce the number of schools that are used as polling stations.
- 7.8 Individual risk assessments for polling stations are in place. Any new venues will undertake a risk assessment prior to finalising.

8.0 Postal vote opening

- 8.1 There will be daily opening sessions in the City Suite, Civic Centre every weekday from Tuesday 26 April until election day.
- 8.2 Candidates and agents are required to notify Electoral Services of attendance at sessions at least 24 hours in advance.
- 8.3 The final postal vote opening session at the count will be scaled up so that there are more postal vote opening assistants working on opening and verifying the final postal votes that have been handed in to the polling station on the day, which will speed up this process.
- 8.4 More internal employees from Finance will be employed to work on postal vote opening sessions and they will be assisting with making recommendations to process and paperwork to provide further efficiencies to this process.

9.0 Verification and Count

- 9.1 The count will be taking place at Aldersley. The verification will take place on Thursday 5 May 2022 after close of poll, and this is anticipated to be completed by 2.30am. The counting of votes will commence after verification, and it is anticipated that this will be completed by 5am.
- 9.2 Instead of the usual mini horseshoe layout by ward, there will be four long rows of count tables to enable people to move around the count venue more safely. The Postal Vote Opening team will be based outside of the main hall to create more space in the count venue.
- 9.3 All wards will start verification at the same time. Once each ward is verified, the count will start for that ward.
- 9.4 Changes have been made to the ballot box receipt process to improve the accuracy of Presiding Officers correctly returning and completing ballot paper accounts. Instead of the drive through and drop off process, Presiding Officers will now park in the car park

and bring all of their equipment to a check in desk for checking. There will be ten check in desks to replicate the number of drop-off bays. Finance Officers will be based at check in desks to check in equipment and check that the ballot paper account has been correctly completed prior to the Presiding Officer leaving so that the Presiding Officer is able to answer any queries and learn from any mistakes.

9.5 Social distancing measures will be implemented at the count so that candidates and agents and staff are distanced with Perspex screens, and staff will also be sat with a Perspex screen in between each other. Due to limited number of count staff, the count will take longer than for previous standalone local elections.

10.0 Financial implications

- 10.1 There is a £192,000 budget currently set aside to cover the cost of local elections each year. The cost of running local elections to the Council in any year is dependent on whether they are standalone or combined with Parliamentary, Police and Crime Commissioner or Combined Authority Mayoral elections. Combined elections costs are effectively shared, part funded by Government or the Combined Authority. In these circumstances significant underspends against the local elections budget are expected. The forthcoming standalone election is, however, estimated to cost in the region of £260,000 at this stage. The anticipated cost in excess of the budget will be funded from the Elections Reserve established specifically for this purpose.
- 10.2 A risk assessment of the election process is currently being undertaken in conjunction with Public Health. Any costs associated with emerging recommendations will be reviewed and incorporated in future update reports.
 [GE/15122021/X]

11.0 Legal implications

11.1 All preparations outlined in this report are in line with the statutory provisions covering the delivery of local elections. [DP/20122021/B]

12.0 Equalities implications

12.1 Planning for these elections complies with the Public-sector equality duty. Reasonable adjustments to vote are made available for electors with disabilities in the polling stations, and staff working election duties receive substantial training on this. A communications campaign will be launched in January up until May to continue to advise electors on the options that they have available to them to vote – either in the polling station, by post or by proxy.

13.0 All other Implications

13.1 There are no other implications arising from this report at the current time.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 None listed.

15.0 Appendices

15.1 Appendix 1: Proposed polling stations for May 2022

Appendix 1 List of polling stations by ward – highlighted are proposed changes to designated polling stations

Reference	District(s)	Polling Station
Bilston East		
BE1	BEA	Bert Williams Leisure Centre, Nettlefolds Way, WV14 0EF
BE2	BEB	Bilston Seventh Day Adventist Church, WV14 7PE
BE3	BEC	The Lunt Community Centre, Lunt Road, WV14 7BH
BE4	BED	Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Oxford Street, Bilston, WV14 0PX
BE5	BEE	Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road, Bilston, WV14 8BW
BE6	BEF	Bradley Senior Citizens Centre, Wilkinson Avenue, Bilston, WV14 8PS
BE7	BEG	Lower Bradley Community Centre, Wallace Road, Bilston, WV14 8BW
BE8	BEH	Temporary Polling Station, Horning Drive, (Off Broadmoor Road), WV14 0RR
Bilston North	1	
BN1	BNA	Stowlawn Primary School, The Willows Campus, Green Park Avenue, WV14 6EH
BN2	BNB	Villiers Primary School, Prouds Lane, WV14 6PR
BN3	BNC	Portobello Community Centre, Hill Road, WV13 3TT
BN4	BND	Villiers Primary School, Prouds Lane, WV14 6PR
BN5	BNE	St Chad's Church Hall, Connaught Road, WV14 6NY
Blakenhall		
BO1	воа	Bob Jones Community Hub, Bromley Street, WV2 3AS
BO2	ВОВ	Royal Air Force Association Club, (RAFA), 26 Goldthorn Road, WV2 4PN
ВО3	вос	Goldthorn Park Primary School, Ward Road, WV4 5ET
BO4	BOD	Goldthorn Park Primary School, Ward Road, WV4 5ET
BO5	BOE	St Teresas RC Primary School, Malins Road, WV4 6AW
Bushbury No	rth	
BU1	BUA	Church Hall, Church of St James, Taunton Avenue, WV10 6PN
BU2	BUB	Temple Baptist Church, 30 Three Tuns Lane, WV10 6BD
BU3	BUC	Fordhouses Baptist Church, Winchester Road, WV10 6EJ
BU4	BUD	Northycote Farm, Underhill Lane, WV10 7JF

BU5	BUE	Collingwood Library at Broadway Gardens, Broadway Gardens, WV10 8EA
Bushbury So	uth and Low F	lill
BY1	BYA	Good Shepherd Centre, Second Avenue, Low Hill, WV10 9PE
BY2	BYB	Low Hill Community Hub, Kempthorne Avenue, WV10 9JJ
BY3	BYC	Low Hill Community Hub, Kempthorne Avenue, WV10 9JJ
BY4	BYD	Good Shepherd Centre, Second Avenue, Low Hill, WV10 9PE
BY5	BYE	Tenants Meeting Room, Coven Lodge, Coven Street, WV10 9AX
BY6	BYF	Bushbury Triangle Management Centre, 74 Stanley Road, (next to Children's Centre), WV10 9EL
BY7	BYG	Bushbury lane Academy, Ripon Road, WV10 9TR
East Park		
EP1	EPA	East Park Methodist Church Hall, Brooklands Parade, WV1 2ND
EP2	EPB	Eastfield Community Centre, Colliery Road, WV1 2QY
EP3	EPC	East Park Methodist Church Hall, Brooklands Parade, WV1 2ND
EP4	EPD	Portobello Community Centre, Hill Road, WV13 3TT
EP5	EPE	East Park Library & Neighbourhood Centre, Hurstbourne Crescent, WV1 2EE
EP6	EPF	Memorial Hall, George Street, WV2 2LY
EP7	EPG	All Saints Community Centre, All Saints Road, WV2 1EL
Ettingshall		
ET1	ETA	All Saints Community Centre, All Saints Road, WV2 1EL
ET2	ETB	St Martin`s Church Hall, Parkfield Grove, WV2 2BG
ET3	ETC	Memorial Hall, George Street, WV2 2LY
ET4	ETD	Parkfield Primary School, Dimmock Street, Parkfield, WV4 6HB
ET5	ETE	Bilston People`s Centre, Excel Church, Wolverhampton Street, WV14 0LT
ET6	ETF	Temporary Polling Station, Overfield Drive (on car park of Elizabeth Arms PH), WV14 9XW
Fallings Park		
FP1	FPA	Neil Dougherty Education and Resource Centre, Masefield Road, WV10 8SA
FP2	FPB	Fallings Park Methodist Church, Wimborne Road, WV10 0NN

FP3	FPC	D`Eyncourt Primary School, Mullett Road, Wednesfield, WV11 1DD
FP4	FPD	Long Knowle Community Hub, Wood End Road, WV11 1YG
FP5	FPE	Long Knowle Community Hub, Wood End Road, WV11 1YG
FP6	FPF	Fallings Park Primary School, Old Fallings Lane, WV10 8BN
Graiseley		
GR1	GRA	Brickkiln Community Centre, Cherry Street, WV3 0QW
GR2	GRB	Bingley Strengthening Families Hub, Norfolk Road, Pennfields, WV3 0JE
GR3	GRC	United Reformed Church Centre, Lea Road community Centre URC, Lea Road, WV3 0LW
GR4	GRD	Bradmore Community Centre, Birches Barn Road, WV3 7BN
GR5	GRE	Beckminster Methodist Church, Birches Barn Road, Penn Fields, WV3 7BQ
GR6	GRF	St Philip`s Church, Church Road, Bradmore, WV3 7EN
Heath Town		
HT1	HTA	Woden Primary School, Springfield Road, WV10 0LH
HT2	НТВ	Harvest Temple NTCOG, 1 Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0PD
HT3	нтс	Holy Trinity Church Hall - Heath Town, Bushbury Road, WV10 0LY
HT4	HTD	St Patrick's RC Church Hall, Rear of St Patrick's RC Church, Wolverhampton Road, WV10 0QQ
HT5	HTE	Wodensfield Primary School, Woden Avenue, wednesfield, WV11 1PW
HT6	HTF	Wednesfield Community Centre, Well Lane, WV11 1XT
Merry Hill		
MH1	МНА	Uplands Junior School, Finchfield Road West, WV3 8BA
MH2	МНВ	Swanmore Community Centre, Swanmore Close, WV3 7JY
MH3	мнс	St Joseph`s Church Hall, Coalway Road, WV3 7LF
MH4	MHD	St Joseph`s Church Hall, Coalway Road, WV3 7LF
MH5	MHE	Warstones Library, Pinfold Grove, WV4 4PT
МН6	MHF	Springdale Methodist Church Hall, Warstones Road, WV4 4LF
Oxley		

OX1	ОХА	Pendeford Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Ryefield, WV8 1UD
OX2	ОХВ	Rakegate Primary School, Rakegate Close, Pedestrian access Sandwell Road, WV10 6US
OX3	OXC	Polish Catholic Centre, Stafford Road, WV10 6DQ
OX4	OXD	Pendeford Community Hub, Whitburn Close, WV9 5NJ
OX5	OXE	Pendeford Community Hub, Whitburn Close, WV9 5NJ
Park		
PK1	PKA	Tenants Meeting Room, Upper Vauxhall, WV1 4SX
PK2	PKB	St Judes Church Hall, St Judes Road, WV6 0EB
PK3	PKC	St Judes CE Primary School, (Junior School Site), Paget Road, WV6 0DT
PK4	PKD	Zion City Tabernacle, Compton Road, WV3 9QB
PK5	PKE	Bantock House, Bantock Park, WV3 9LQ
PK6	PKF	St Andrew`s CE Primary School, Coleman Street, WV6 0RH
Penn		
PN1	PNA	Warstones Library, Pinfold Grove, WV4 4PT
PN2	PNB	Springdale Methodist Church Hall, Warstones Road, WV4 4LF
PN3	PNC	Penn United Reformed Church Hall, Penn Road, WV4 5QF
PN4	PND	Woodfield Sports and Social Club, Woodfield Avenue, WV4 4AF
PN5	PNE	St Aidan's Church, Mount Road, WV4 5SW
PN6	PNF	Penn United Reformed Church Hall, Penn Road, WV4 5QF
PN7	PNG	St Bartholomew`s Church Hall, Vicarage Road, WV4 5HU
St Peters		
SP1	SPA	Polish Catholic Centre, Stafford Road, WV10 6DQ
SP2	SPB	Tenants Meeting Room, Firsbrook House, Firsbrook Close, WV6 0UD
SP3	SPC	Christian Pentecostal Church Hall, Gorsebrook Road, WV6 0PB
SP4	SPD	Gloucester Street Community Centre, Gloucester Street, WV6 0PT
SP5	SPE	Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, WV1 4AN
SP6	SPF	University of Wolverhampton, Chaplaincy Building, Molineux Street, WV1 1AD
SP7	SPG	Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, WV1 1DU
Spring Vale		

	1	
SV1	SVA	Hilton Hall Community Centre, Hilton Road, WV4 6DR
SV2	SVB	Springvale Library, Bevan Avenue, WV4 6SG
SV3	SVC	Holy Trinity Church Hall, Farrington Road, WV4 6QL
SV4	SVD	Hill Avenue Acadamy, Hill Avenue, WV4 6PY
SV5	SVE	Hurst Hill Methodist Church, Hurst Road, WV14 9EU
SV6/156	SVF	Hurst Hill Methodist Church, Hurst Road, WV14 9EU
Tettenhall Re	gis	
TR1	TRA	Christ The King Church, Pendeford Avenue, (Use Main Church Entrance), WV6 9EJ
TR2	TRB	Claregate Primary School, Chester Avenue, WV6 9JU
TR3	TRC	St Michael`s Parish Centre, Room Behind Tettenhall Library, Off Upper Street, WV6 8QF
TR4	TRD	St Michael`s CE School, Lower Street, Tettenhall, WV6 9AF
TR5	TRE	Tettenhall Wood School, Regis Road, WV6 8XG
TR6	TRF	Tettenhall Wood School, Regis Road, WV6 8XG
Tettenhall Wi	ghtwick	
TW1	TWA	Church Hall Newman Centre, St Thomas of Canterbury RC Church, Haywood Drive, WV6 8RF
TW2	TWB	Temporary Polling Station, Sainsbury`s Local, 24 Bridgnorth Road, WV6 8AA (split in to 2 stations)
TW3	TWC	Tettenhall Wood United Reformed Church, Mount Road, WV6 8HT
TW4	TWD	Endeavour Academy, (formerly Wightwick Hall School), Tinacre Hill, WV6 8DA
TW5	TWE	Church of Good Shepherd, Church hall, Windmill Lane, WV3 8HJ
TW6	TWF	St Columbas Church Hall, St Columbas Church, Castlecroft Road, WV3 8BZ
Wednesfied I	North	
WN1	WNA	Wood End Primary School, Wood End Road, WV11 1YQ
WN2	WNB	Ashmore Park Community Hub, 82 Griffiths Drive, WV11 2LH
WN3	WNC	Ashmore Park Baptist Church, Griffiths Drive, Ashmore Park, WV11 2JW
WN4	WND	St Alban`s CE Primary School, St Alban`s Close, WV11 2PF
WN5	WNE	Ashmore Park Community Hub, 82 Griffiths Drive, WV11 2LH
WN6	WNF	Oak Meadow Primary School, Ryan Avenue, WV11 2QQ

Wednesfield South		
WS1	WSA	Seventh Day Adventist Church, Lichfield Road, WV11 1TP
WS2	WSB	Wednesfield Methodist Church, Wood End Road, WV11 1YJ
WS3	WSC	Edward The Elder Primary School, Moathouse Lane East, WV11 3DB
WS4	WSD	Perry Hall Primary School, Colman Avenue, WV11 3RT
WS5	WSE	Redeemed Christian Church of God, Stubby Lane, off Lichfield Road, WV11 3NF
WS6	WSF	Wednesfield Christian Centre, Broad Lane South, WV11 3RY
WS7	WSG	Wednesfield Community Centre, Well Lane, WV11 1XT

Agenda Item No: 6

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Governance and Ethics Committee

14 January 2022

Report title Local Election Fees and Charges 2021-2022

Cabinet member with lead

responsibility

Councillor Paula Brookfield

Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities

Accountable director Dav

David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer

Originating service

Electoral Services

Accountable employee

Laura Noonan Electoral Services Manager

Tel 01902 554939

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Report has been considered by

Election Board

11 January 2022

Recommendation decision:

The Governance and Ethics Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposed schedule of fees for May 2022 as shown in Appendix 1.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To outline the fees and charges relating to Local Elections, which must be set locally.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983 requires each Council to appoint an officer of the authority as Returning Officer to undertake various statutory duties in relation to election procedures. The Council's Returning Officer is the Chief Executive.
- 2.2 The Representation of the People Act 1983, Section 36(4) requires the council to cover all expenditure incurred by the Returning Officer in the holding of an election for all or any seats on it. The Council may set scales of expenditure which the Returning Officer must not exceed. The costs of running an election result from having to meet a range of fees, charges and expenses incurred in paying council employees and non-council employees for undertaking election duties, expenses for printing notices, poll cards, ballot papers and postal packs and hiring polling station venues and conducting the count.
- 2.3 The fees are regularly reviewed across the West Midlands region to ensure consistency and are also reviewed annually in line with inflation. The scale of fees and charges is taken to Election Board for approval from the Returning Officer and is then brought to Governance and Ethics Committee for final approval.

3.0 Scale of fees

- 3.1 The fees payable to staff working in polling stations and on other electoral duties are broadly in line with assumptions laid down by the Cabinet Office as reasonable for that role and in line with the West Midlands region.
- 3.2 All fees have been kept at the same rate as 2020/2021 for a standalone election, except for Poll Clerk pay. Poll Clerk pay is proposed to be increased by £5 from £150 to £155, so that it is in line with the National Living Wage of £9.50 an hour.
- 3.3 No pay rate equates to less than the National Living Wage.
- 3.4 Last year, people working election duties received a higher rate of pay due to the combined poll, where there was a 20% uplift for some roles.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There is a £192,000 budget currently set aside to cover the cost of local elections each year. The cost of running local elections to the Council in any year is dependent on whether they are standalone or combined with Parliamentary, Police and Crime Commissioner or Combined Authority Mayoral elections. Combined elections costs are

effectively shared, part funded by Government or the Combined Authority. In these circumstances significant underspends against the local elections budget are expected. The forthcoming standalone election is, however, estimated to cost in the region of £260,000 at this stage. This includes fees payable under the proposed schedule in this report. The anticipated cost in excess of the budget will be funded from the Elections Reserve established specifically for this purpose.

4.2 A risk assessment of the election process is currently being undertaken in conjunction with Public Health. Any costs associated with emerging recommendations will be reviewed and incorporated in future update reports.

[GE/18112021/K]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 The approach taken is lawful and in compliance with relevant election law. [DP/20122021/A]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 Whilst there are no direct equalities implications in this report there are a substantial number of equalities issues that are being addressed in relation to the elections and these are covered in other election reports.

7.0 All other Implications

There are no other implications arising from this report at the current time.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

8.1 None listed.

9.0 Apprentices

9.1 Appendix 1: Election Fees and Charges 2021-2022



City of Wolverhampton Council – Election Fees and Charges 2021-22

SCALE OF FEES	Proposed Fees 2021-22
Fee for Returning Officer	
Local Election	0
European Parliamentary Election	N/A
Parliamentary Election (3 constituencies)	N/A
Police and Crime Commissioner Election	N/A
West Midlands Combined Authority Mayoral Election	N/A
Fee for Deputy Returning Officer – flat rate	
Deputy Returning Officer – full powers	£500
Assistant Deputy Returning Officer – full powers	£400
Deputy Returning Officer – limited powers – Postal Vote Opening Manager	£200
Deputy Returning Officer – limited powers – receipt of nominations	£100 (non-core-team)
Polling Station Staff – flat rate	
Polling Station Inspector	£250
Polling Station Inspector mileage	£0.45p a mile
Presiding Officer (PO)	£230
Presiding Officer mileage	£10
Transporting polling booth	£15
Poll Clerk (PC)	£155
Poll Clerk mileage	£5
Reserve PO and PC fee	£50

Training (Polling Station Inspector/Presiding Officer/Poll Clerk)	£30
Postal Vote Opening – per hour	
Postal Vote Opening Manager	£200 DRO fee and x 1.25 hourly rate for overtime
Postal Vote Opening Supervisor Count night	£15 £20
Postal Vote Opening Adjudicator	£12.50
Count night	£15
Postal Vote Opening Assistant	£10
Count night	£12.50
Verification and Count (hourly rate)	
Candidate and Agent Liaison Officer	£300 flat fee
Operations Manager Leads (Logistics, Reception, Comms, Count site manager/ICT/senior result co-ordination) After 9pm/weekend	£30
Count Supervisor After 9pm/weekend	£20
Assistant Count Supervisor After 9pm/weekend	£15
Count Assistant After 9pm/weekend	£12.50
Chief counting supervisor (results co-ordination) After 9pm/weekend	£20

Chief counting supervisor assistant	£15
After 9pm/weekend	
Ballot box receipt assistant	£15
After 9pm/weekend	
Ballot box runner	£12.50
After 9pm/weekend	
Receptionist / Door Keepers	£12.50
After 9pm/weekend	
Training fee for Count Supervisors and Assistant Count Supervisors	£30
Core team overtime	
5 members of core election team for overtime hours.	X 1.25 hourly rate
Electoral Services Manager (G8), Electoral Services Officer (G6), Electoral	
Services Assistants (G4)	Core team election day fee - £300
Temporary clerical assistants	£10.41 (Grade 4)
Delivery of training session	£80 per session for external trainer
	Core team - x 1.25 hourly rate if overtime.
Ballot box preparation	
Ballot box preparation supervisor	£12.50
Ballot box preparation assistant	£10

SCALE OF FEES – SERVICES	Cost	
Printing and provision of ballot papers	Actual and necessary (print contract in place with FCS Laser	
	Mail for next 2 years)	
Printing official poll cards.	Actual and necessary (print contract in place with FCS Laser	
	Mail for next 2 years)	

Printing of postal vote packs	Actual and necessary (print contract in place with FCS Laser Mail for next 2 years)
Printing and providing notices and other documents required in	Actual and necessary
and about the election or poll and cost of publishing such	
notices and documents	
Renting of any building, room or equipment for the purposes of	Actual and necessary
the election and for expenses of heating, lighting and cleaning	
any building or room or repairs to equipment.	
Hiring or constructing a polling station for the purposes of the	Actual and necessary
election and for expenses of heating, lighting and cleaning any	
building or room or repairs to equipment.	
Providing ballot boxes, including repairs	Actual and necessary
Conveyance of ballot boxes, equipment etc.	Actual and necessary
Delivery and collection of polling booths	Actual and necessary
Printing copies of the register of electors	Actual and necessary
Postage	Actual and necessary – as per Royal Mail charges
Election stationery and materials, general stationery, cost of	Actual and necessary
delivery of documents to the Returning Officer and	
miscellaneous expenses.	
Premium for Employer's Liability, Third Party and Personal	Actual and necessary
Indemnity Insurance.	

Agenda Item No: 7

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Governance and Ethics Committee

14 January 2022

Report title Evaluation of 2021 Annual Canvass

Cabinet member with lead

responsibility

Councillor Paula Brookfield

Cabinet member for Governance and Equalities

Accountable director David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer

Originating service Electoral Services

Accountable employee Laura Noonan Electoral Services Manager

Tel 01902 554939

Email Laura.Noonan@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Report has been considered by

Election Board

14 December 2021

Recommendation for action:

The Governance and Ethics Committee is recommended to:

1. Provide feedback on the 2021 annual canvass.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To provide an evaluation of the 2021 annual canvass.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 It is a legal requirement for the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) to carry out an annual canvass to ensure that the electoral register is up to date.
- 2.2 The 2020 annual canvass was the first to be held under the reformed canvass as per The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019. The annual canvass now starts with a national data match of the electoral register with DWP records to categorise properties in to route one matched properties (indicating no change in household composition), or route two no match (indicating a change in household composition). This allows the ERO to take a flexible approach and target resources on properties where there is a change.
- 2.3 Route one properties receive a 'light touch' canvass, where they are sent a letter but only need to respond if there is a change. The route two properties must respond and are sent multiple different types of communications including a door knock to elicit a response. There is also a route three for properties with a senior responsible officer who can respond on behalf of the residents. In Wolverhampton, Care Homes with a senior responsible officer are assigned to route three.
- 2.4 It is important to caveat the comparison of the two canvasses under Canvass Reform with the fact that the door knock element of the 2020 annual canvass could not take place due to Covid restrictions in place at the time. The door knock did take place for the 2021 canvass.

3.0 Overall evaluation

3.1 The annual canvass commenced in July 2021 and at that point there was an electorate of 183, 956. The national and local data match took place in July using the same approach as last year, and there was a positive increase compared to last year as 8% more properties matched, so there were fewer properties that needed to be canvassed via route two. The following table shows the number of properties and responses by route for 2020 and 2021.

Canvass	Route one	Route two	% response to route two	Overall completion rate
2020	71% (81,360)	29% (33, 834)	59.9% (20,261)	89%
2021	79% (92, 227)	21% (23, 283)	67.1% (15, 623)	93.4%

- 3.2 Typically the electoral register is more accurate when elections take place as people tend to make sure they are registered to vote ahead of an election. In 2020, there were no elections. In 2021, there were local and regional elections. A household notification letter was also sent to all households in March 2021. These factors will have contributed to a more accurate and up to date register which is why the match rate was higher this year.
- 3.3 Evaluation by the Electoral Commission revealed that nationally 75% of properties were allocated to Route one, so Wolverhampton was higher than the average this year, and higher than the West Midlands average of 77.5%.
- 3.4 The overall canvass completion rate was higher than last year. This could be attributed to a higher match rate to begin with, and the additional responses gained from canvassers conducting the door knock. A total of 7,660 properties were outstanding a response at the end of the canvass.
- 3.5 The annual canvass concluded on 1 December 2021, when the revised register was published. There are 182, 811 electors on the electoral register and 35, 932 postal voters.

4.0 Route one evaluation

- 4.1 Properties in route one only needed to respond if there was a change, except for those who received an initial email as they were required to respond to ensure that the communication had reached the property.
- 4.2 Emails were sent to 15,507 properties this year, and there was a 27% response rate (4,198), which was an increase on the 22% response rate at this stage in 2020. In 2020 there were a lot of queries from residents checking whether the email was legitimate as they had not been contacted in this way before. There were minimal queries this year and more communications were put out in residents' newsletters and on the website to inform residents that they may receive this email.
- 4.3 Households without email addresses and those who did not respond to the email were sent a Canvass Communication Form A which was a two-sided A4 letter without a prepaid envelope showing the names of people registered at this address and to invite them to respond online only if there were changes required. The table below shows the outcome of the route one contacts:

	2020	2021
Properties	81,360	92, 227
Full responses	12, 939 (15.9%)	10, 705 (11.6%)
Changes (electors added/deleted)	2, 772	30
No changes	10, 168	10, 679

4.4 Properties in this route only need to respond if there is a change. The vast majority of those who responded reported no change. Overall, there was a positive outcome as there were much fewer changes made compared to last year, indicating a more accurate and up to date register at the beginning of canvass. The following table shows the contact methods electors used to respond, which shows a sustained channel shift towards more online responses:

	2020	2021
Post	577 (4%)	280 (2.6)
Internet	11,515 (89%)	9, 827 (91.8%)
Phone	116 (0.9%)	83 (0.8%)
Text	64 (0.5%)	38 (0.4%)
Email	12 (0.1%)	21 (0.2%)
Phone call to customer services/electoral services	646 (5%)	454(4.2%)

4.5 An area for improvement for the 2022 Annual Canvass for route one properties will be to increase the number of emails being sent out and responded to in order to reduce the cost of printing and postage. Data mining and data matching options with other council databases will be explored to see if more email addresses can be imported in to the electoral register.

5.0 Route two evaluation

- 5.1 All households in this route are required to respond and the ERO is required to contact these households three times and one of these must be a personal canvass such as a telephone call or door knock.
- All 23, 283 properties received a Canvass Communication Form B letter which was an A4 double sided letter without a pre-paid envelope and electors were encouraged to respond online. Properties who did not respond at this stage were then sent an A3 double sided Canvass Form with a pre-paid envelope. Properties who did not respond to the canvass form then received 2 door knocks and a leaflet posted through the door. The table below shows the outcome of the route two contacts:

	2020		2021	
	Properties contacted	Response rate	Properties contacted	Response rate
Stage 1: CCB letter	33, 834	30% (10, 025)	23, 283	32% (7, 530)

Stage 2:	2, 129	30% (628)	0	N/A
Telephone canvass				
Stage 2: Canvass Form	23, 696	15% (3,78)	15, 753	20% (3, 217)
Stage 3: Door knock	N/A Additional canvass form – 18, 018	N/A 24% (445)	12, 536	39% (4, 876)

- 5.3 At each stage of this year's annual canvass, the response rate was improved compared to last year.
- 5.4 The following table shows the contact methods electors used to respond, which shows a sustained channel shift towards more online responses and less by post:

	2020	2021
Post	21%	11.5% (1,804)
Internet	54%	51.9% (8,107)
Phone	25% - all other contact	4.9% (773)
Text	- methods. Data not available by type	1.1% (172)
Email		0.08% (12)
Door knock	-	18.8% (2, 951)
Phone call to customer services/electoral services		11.5% (1, 801)

- 5.5 There was a software glitch with the Elections Management System which meant that the telephone canvass option could not be utilised this year. The provider, Civica unfortunately could not resolve the issue for this year's canvass but assured it would not happen next year. Data matching options will be explored to gather more contact details for properties.
- 5.6 The door knock was trialled at a later stage in the annual canvass so that canvassers worked right up to the register publication date. Canvassers worked from the beginning of October up until end of November. In previous canvasses they have worked from the beginning of September up until the end of October. The feedback from canvassers was that they preferred working September October due to the weather and daylight hours. This will be accommodated in next year's canvass timetable.

- 5.7 It was difficult to recruit and retain canvassers for this year annual canvass. The Electoral Commission research also found that many local authorities have struggled to recruit canvassers due to the ongoing concerns around Covid-19.
- 5.8 Next year, following the local elections, a recruitment campaign will be launched to recruit more canvassers and to give them smaller rounds to manage so that they have more time to make more than the statutory visit to each property to try and obtain a response.

6.0 Route 3 evaluation

6.1 One employee from Electoral Services led on canvassing 62 care homes by emailing and calling senior responsible offices up to three times. After the third contact, they were sent a canvass form in the post with a pre-paid return envelope. 20% (26) of care homes responded to the canvass communication, which was lower than last year when 60% of care homes responded to the same approach. This is more typical of previous canvasses.

7.0 Financial implications

7.1 Against the background of a high match rate the cost of the annual canvass has been met from the £312,000 budget set aside for electoral registration in 2021-2022. The costs of future canvass operations will have to be closely monitored. Forecasts will be incorporated in quarterly revenue monitoring reports and any emerging budget pressures highlighted as part of that process. [GE/15122021/N]

8.0 Legal implications

8.1 The statutory provisions for the annual canvass have been met by the ERO. [DP/20122021/C]

9.0 Equalities implications

9.1 Due to the nature of population turnover in each ward, each ward does have a different percentage of properties that are allocated to each route. The nature of the reformed Annual Canvass enables Electoral Registration Officers to focus resources on the wards where the data indicates that there has been a change in household composition.

10.0 All other Implications

10.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 Electoral Commission report on 2021 canvass in Great Britain: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/2021-canvass-great-britain-july-september