

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Governance Committee 22 June 2015

Individual Electoral Registration - Update

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services **LDS/105**

1. Purpose

This report updates the Committee on electoral registration for the elections on 7 May 2015 and the first annual household canvass under Individual Electoral Registration in advance of the publication of the new register on 1st December 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the progress made in the transition to Individual Electoral Registration and the steps taken to maximise registration.**

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1** To inform the Committee of the registration rates for the General and Borough Council election, and the arrangements for the annual register canvass and publication on 1st December 2015.

4. Background

- 4.1** At its meeting held on 20 January 2015 the Committee received a report following the publication of the first annual electoral following the introduction and the first stage of transition to Individual Electoral Registration. The new system introduced by the Electoral Administration Act 2013 requires that
- new electors register individually and must have their identity verified, either nationally with data held with the Department of Work and Pensions or locally;
 - existing electors must have their identity verified to retain the ability to have an absent vote and to continue to be registered electors must be verified by December 2015.
- 4.2** The number of registered electors had reduced by 2029 when the annual register was published on 1 December 2014. However, the numbers had recovered by the general election. Each household in the Borough received a letter confirming the names registered and explaining how to register those who were not included. A breakdown, comparing the electorate with previous years is set out in the table below.

Ward	October 2012 electorate	February 2014 electorate	December 2014 electorate	May 2015 Electorate
BEWBUSH	6271	6374	6303	6447
BROADFIELD NORTH	4763	4717	4615	4690
BROADFIELD SOUTH	4571	4593	4472	4560
FURNACE GREEN	4393	4546	4451	4549
GOSSOPS GREEN	4017	4014	3932	3980
IFIELD	6770	6797	6638	6866
LANGLEY GREEN	5895	5950	5794	5804
MAIDENBOWER	6647	6649	6477	6656
NORTHGATE	3944	3965	3832	3965
POUND HILL NORTH	5238	5190	5092	5161
POUND HILL SOUTH AND WORTH	6437	6447	6268	6356
SOUTHGATE	6696	6661	6362	6493
THREE BRIDGES	5588	5566	5461	5607
TILGATE	4550	4556	4454	4509
WEST GREEN	3732	3729	3578	3635
Total	79512	79758	77729	79278

- 4.3 The number of deletions, new registration and moves within the borough from February to June by ward are set out in the table below

Ward	Changed	Deleted	Created	Moved
BEWBUSH	160	158	275	106
BROADFIELD NORTH	133	113	196	49
BROADFIELD SOUTH	145	133	236	52
FURNACE GREEN	123	124	198	69
GOSSOPS GREEN	114	105	151	53
IFIELD	202	223	404	100
LANGLEY GREEN	156	171	304	65
MAIDENBOWER	246	226	405	124
NORTHGATE	117	110	247	59
POUND HILL NORTH	176	181	280	66
POUND HILL SOUTH AND WORTH	232	207	317	93
SOUTHGATE	180	212	341	106
THREE BRIDGES	210	182	350	74
TILGATE	106	114	179	40
WEST GREEN	98	132	207	54
TOTAL	2398	2391	4090	1110

- 4.4 Between February and the election there were over 6000 applications to be added to the register. Most of these were via the national registration site. However, of this

number more than 1400 were already registered. Of the non-duplicate applications 143 electors needed to provide documentary proof to be added to the register.

5. ANNUAL CANVASS 2015

- 5.1 Preparations for the annual canvass of households is now underway and will start in July. The new system of registration requires that each household must be sent and respond to a Household Enquiry Form. The A3 form, which is prescribed by the legislation, contains the names of those electors that already appear on the register and householders must respond by giving new names and deleting names no longer resident. Each new potential elector listed on the Household Enquiry form will then receive an Invitation to Register. In each case non responses will receive at least 2 reminders and a personal visit.

Unconfirmed electors

- 5.2 Those existing electors whose identities remain unverified will receive at least 2 further reminders before the publication of the new register on 1 December. The Government are to decide in June whether these names should be deleted from the new register. At present there are 4000 unverified names on the register.

6. Implications

- 5.1 There are significant additional costs involved in implementing individual registration in staff time, printing, postage and stationery which is being met by government grant.

6. Background Papers

[Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013](#)

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