



Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Report to : Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Meeting on : 23rd November 2018

Subject : Canvass & Electoral Update Report

Author : Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

1.0 Introduction

This report is to provide members with an update on the ongoing Electoral Registration Annual Canvass and if necessary any other electoral issues facing the Board.

2.0 Annual Canvass

Under IER the Canvass has the following stages:

2.1 Issue of Household Enquiry Forms (HEFs):

The first stage of the Canvass was issue of HEFs to all properties in the Joint Board area. These forms invited those at each house to complete and return the form, to respond by telephone or internet and new electors to register online. This year canvass started 27th June 2018. The numbers issued are shown in the table below, these show 2016 and 2017 data to allow for comparisons to be made. There is a drop in Household Enquiry forms issued this year. This is due to the introduction of the single occupancy tick box. When an application to register is made on line, there is a tick box for the applicant to say that they are a single occupant. If this box is ticked, the HEF for the property is removed from the Canvass. Due to the introduction of this tick box over 3,000 Hefs were able to be removed from this year's canvass.

Council	Household Enquiry Form 2016	Household Enquiry Form 2017	Household Enquiry Form 2018
East Renfrewshire	38,352	38,654	38,327
Inverclyde	38,807	38,793	37,964
Renfrewshire	84,923	85,561	84,163
Total	162,082	163,008	160,454

Any changes notified by post, telephone or internet resulted in the issue of an invitation to register (ITR) which could be completed on-line by using the Government Registration Portal or by personal application via post or telephone call.

2.2 Issue of Reminders:

Where no response had been made to the initial issue of HEFs, reminders were issued on 27th July 2018. The numbers issued were as follows:

Council	2016	2016	2017	2017	2018	2018
	1 st Reminder	2 nd Reminder	1 st Reminder	2 nd Reminder	1 st Reminder	2 nd Reminder
East Renfrewshire	16,141	10,774	16,485	10,657	16,918	7,964
Inverclyde	18,519	13,668	20,141	13,960	18,561	10,587
Renfrewshire	41,216	30,407	43,556	30,912	41,635	23,927
Total	75,876	54,949	80,182	55,529	77,114	42,478

The issue of Second Reminders done solely as a Door-to-Door Canvass.

2.3 Door-to-Door Canvass:

IER mandates that at least one visit will be made to properties with electors who have made no response. This was carried out as part of the Second Reminder exercise.

For this Canvass, as the law requires, a door-to-door visit to properties where there had been no response had to be arranged. Temporary Canvassers have been working round these since 1st September 2018 and the last canvasser finished their calls on 12th November.

The information below is supplied to the EC when providing the canvass update:

This year 48 temporary canvassers were recruited to personally visit the 42,478 properties for which a second reminder was to be issued.

Any names added to the HEF are to be followed up with an invitation to register (ITR) issued to the individual. This starts another cycle where the invitations are required to be followed up with a reminder and finally a personal visit by a canvasser. The table below shows the ITRs issued following up information received on the HEF.

Council	2018	2018
	Original ITR	1st Reminder
East Renfrewshire	4,405	2,695
Inverclyde	3,968	2,499
Renfrewshire	8,929	5,875
Total	17,307	11,069

The table below shows the relevant changes made to the register during the canvass period.

Council	Canvass 2018	Canvass 2018
	Electors Added	Electors Deleted
East Renfrewshire	4,154	3,910
Inverclyde	3,511	3,693
Renfrewshire	8,746	4,659
Total	16,411	12,262

2.4 Local Secondary Checks:

Under the legislation in force, local data held by Councils and other bodies including Council Tax Billing records, lists of social tenancies and lists of private tenancies cannot be used for this Canvass. This continues to add to the complexity and cost of the Canvass.

2.5 Publication of Registers:

This takes place on 1st December 2018.

2.6 Boundary Review:

The 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies is at present out for consultation which is due to end in mid-December. Any proposed changes will be implemented in conjunction with the three constituent authorities.

2.7 Costs:

This is the fourth “business as usual” Canvass since the introduction of IER. This type of canvass and the ongoing business as usual issue of HEF’s and ITR’s throughout the year is more expensive than the previous style of canvass. The UK Government has stated in the past that they will fund the extra expense of running this new version.

However, the funding for the present style of canvass ceases in 20/21. The UK Government intends to have introduced changes to current legislation which will allow Electoral Registration Officers (ERO’s) to carry out various data matching exercises which would result in the costs of the canvass reducing. It is the intention of the UK Government to have this legislation in place to allow the 21/22 canvass to function under these new laws, thereby allowing the removal of the current level of funding from the UK Government.

3. The Next Year:

3.1 Elections:

There are no scheduled elections for next year at present. However, we need to be prepared should a snap election or by election be called at short notice.

General Conclusions

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their continuing hard work and effective management of the Annual Canvass.

Recommendations

- i. The Board notes the contents of this report.

Kate A Crawford - 14th November 2018

For further information please contact Kate Crawford on 0141-618-5903
Or via e-mail at kate.crawford@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk