



# Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

**Report to:** Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

**Meeting on:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Subject:** Electoral Update Report

**Author:** Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

## 1. Introduction

This report is to inform board members of any updates to Electoral Registration legislation and report to the Board on any electoral events.

## 2. Local Government Election - 5th May 2022

- 2.1 This election was planned and delivered in the context of COVID and the various restrictions and guidance that were in place during the months leading up to election day. During this period there was a combination of office and remote working. The successful delivery of this election was made possible by robust internal preparations such as project planning, carrying out risk assessments, updating our election specific risk register, holding regular meetings with our three Returning Officer's (RO) teams and attending Election Board meetings.
- 2.2 The worsening position with COVID during late December / Early January led me and most EROs within Scotland to take the decision to issue Household Notification Letters (HNLs) in the early part of 2021. These letters were issued to households throughout the area showing who was registered to vote within the household and whether they currently had a postal vote. The letter also gave guidance on the action to be taken if the information required to be updated and how to apply for a postal vote. To coincide with the letter going out all Scottish EROs contributed to a TV advertising campaign which was aired during the first two weeks of February.
- 2.3 Regular contact was maintained with the ROs throughout the process with plans and timetables agreed between the ERO, ROs and third party suppliers. All deadlines for the supply of data to allow the issue of Poll Cards and Postal Voting Packs were achieved.
- 2.4 On Election Day itself the office was staffed throughout the hours of the poll. There were a total of 13 Emergency Proxies issued on election day, mainly due to COVID isolation. There were also 6 clerical errors corrected on election day.

2.5 As at 27<sup>th</sup> April the Final Electorate and Postal Vote statistics are shown below:

#### East Renfrewshire Council

Ward	Total Electorate	Of which are Postal Voters	PV as a %of total electorate
Ward 1 - Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor	14,548	3,284	22.57%
Ward 2 - Newton Mearns North and Neilston	12,455	3,454	27.73%
Ward 3 - Giffnock and Thornliebank	13,011	3,863	29.69%
Ward 4 - Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood	16,586	4,333	26.12%
Ward 5 - Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham	18,286	5,515	30.16%

#### Inverclyde Council

Ward	Total Electorate	Of which are Postal Voters	PV as a %of total electorate
Ward 1 - Inverclyde East*	8,808	2,199	24.97%
Ward 2 - Inverclyde East Central	8,065	1,888	23.41%
Ward 3 - Inverclyde Central	7,787	1,595	20.48%
Ward 4 - Inverclyde North	10,353	2,539	24.52%
Ward 5 - Inverclyde West	8,773	2,253	25.68%
Ward 6 - Inverclyde South West	9,531	2,151	22.57%
Ward 7 - Inverclyde South	7,877	1,768	22.45%

\*Note this ward was uncontested

#### Renfrewshire Council

Ward	Total Electorate	Of which are Postal Voters	PV as a %of total electorate
Ward 1 - Renfrew North and Braehead	13,717	2,878	20.98%
Ward 2 - Renfrew South and Gallowhill	9,357	2,057	21.98%
Ward 3 - Paisley Northeast and Ralston	9,141	2,260	24.72%
Ward 4 - Paisley Northwest	13,728	2,726	19.86%
Ward 5 - Paisley East and Central	10,103	2,039	20.18%
Ward 6 - Paisley Southeast	9,546	2,498	26.17%
Ward 7 - Paisley Southwest	11,998	2,990	24.92%
Ward 8 - Johnstone South and Elderslie	13,298	3,016	22.68%
Ward 9 - Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	11,956	2,711	22.67%
Ward 10 - Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	12,758	3,118	24.44%
Ward 11 - Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	13,065	3,291	25.19%
Ward 12 - Erskine and Inchinnan	13,097	3,027	23.11%

### **3. 2022 Canvass**

- 3.1 The 2022 canvass will start on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022, with publication of the revised register due to take place by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.
- 3.2 As a precursor to the start of the canvass National Data Matching of the register to the records of DWP is scheduled to take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022, with local data matching following. These matching stages help identify the appropriate form of communication to be issued to each household.
- 3.3 Where an email address is held then the initial contact will be by email, and if there is no response then the appropriate letter will be issued to the household. In other cases the initial contact will be by letter. Where a response is required then there will be a range of options for the elector to utilise including internet, phone and mail.
- 3.4 The final stage of the canvass is a visit to the household for those households where a response was required and none received. This stage is due to begin at the end of August.

### **4. Future Elections**

- 4.1 At the time of writing there are no other elections scheduled, however, as always this will be kept under review and should circumstances require, our staff will be able to deliver.

### **5. Elections Act 2022**

- 5.1 The Elections Act 2022 received Royal Ascent on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The provisions of the Act come into force at various times and elements of it are subject to further Regulations. The main provisions that will impact the Board are the requirement for Voter ID for UK Parliamentary Elections, this is due to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, Changes to Postal Voting application process for the UK Parliamentary Elections and changes to the eligibility to be registered as an Overseas Elector.
- 5.2 As the details and requirements begin to become clearer I will be working towards implementing the various requirements and will continue to keep the Board informed of progress.

### **6. General Conclusions**

- 6.1 I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for delivering another successful election in the most trying of circumstances, all credit to their professionalism and “can do” attitude which ensured we delivered our part in this election process.

### **7. Recommendations**

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

Robert Nicol  
Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer  
30th May 2021

For further information please contact Robert Nicol 07483921232  
Or via e-mail at [Robert.nicol@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.nicol@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk)