



Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Report to: Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board
Meeting on: 31st May 2019
Subject: Electoral Registration Update Report
Author: Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

1.0 Introduction

This report is to provide members with an update on electoral issues facing the Board.

2.0 This year

2.1 Refresh of Absent Voter Identifiers

This exercise was carried out in the early part of this year. This invited electors with an Absent Voting facility to update their security details; the law dictates that this should be refreshed every 5 years. If updated security details are not supplied, the Absent Voting facility will lapse.

The numbers included in the exercise were 23,893. At the end of the exercise postal votes were removed from 2,819 electors who did not provide updated security details. A letter is issued to each of these electors explaining the situation and a fresh Absent Vote application form is also provided.

2.2 European Parliamentary Election

At the time of writing this report the European Election is a week away, there has been some increase in applications for postal votes and some proxy applications. However, it is not at the same level of increased activity as has been seen with other elections.

2.3 Migration to new Electoral Management System (EMS)

The migration process had started in February this year and it was intended to complete the process by end of May. Electoral events have overtaken that timetable and the process is on hold until after the European Elections. It is hoped to be fully transferred to the new system by the start of this years' canvass which is scheduled to start mid-August.

2.4 Canvass

Business-as-usual Canvassing took place during February and March this year and approximately 6,500 properties were canvassed. In the main this door to door canvass is a follow up to Invitations to Register (ITR's), issued to new electors following their completion of the Household Enquiry Form, which haven't been returned.

In mid-August the last of the present style canvass will be starting and we will be sending out Household Enquiry Forms to around 167,000 properties in early September. It is anticipated that

this will be carried out using the new EMS which will make this large undertaking more streamlined and cost efficient.

2.5 Statistics

Please see Appendix A attached for statistics on registration numbers as at 1st December 2018 (annual publication of the register) and the Election Register as at 16th May 2019.

3.0 **The Next Year**

3.1 Introduction of new style Canvass

This new style canvass which is being developed by the Cabinet Office in consultation with various stakeholders is expected to ensure considerable cost reductions going forward. ERO's will be allowed to use local data matching to minimise contact with electorate where there has been no change since the last contact from this office. This in turn will reduce printing and postage costs and as these are the main costs of the canvass. Significant reductions in these two functions will deliver monetary savings.

The cost savings have to be delivered as the Cabinet Office will no longer be funding the IER existing canvass going forward. It is expected that each ERO's costs will go back to a similar level before the introduction of IER in 2014. We have carried out a costing for the Board and are confident savings can be made, however, it may take one or two runs of this new style canvass to see the full benefit of these expected cost savings.

3.3 Extension to the Franchise Bill

The extension of the Franchise Bill, which includes Prisoner Voting rights is set to go through the Scottish Parliament. This legislation if passed will have an effect on our day to day work, however, the new EMS will be fully operational by then so changes to working procedures will be dealt with in the new system alongside staff training on the new legislation and its effects.

3.4 Elections

There are no scheduled elections for 2020.

General Conclusions

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their continuing hard work and diligence in dealing efficiently with all aspects of registration and in particular the European Elections on 23rd May 2019.

Recommendations

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

Kate A Crawford
Assessor & ERO
16th May 2019

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APPENDIX A

	East Renfrewshire Council	1st Dec 2018	16th May 2019
Ward 1	Barrhead, Liboside and Uplawmoor	13686	13830
Ward 2	Newton Mearns North and Neilson	11960	12057
Ward 3	Giffnock and Thornliebank	12862	12928
Ward 4	Clarkston, Netherlee and Williamwood	16476	16506
Ward 5	Newton Mearns South and Eaglesham	17253	17293
	East Renfrewshire Totals	72237	72614
	Inverclyde Council		
Ward 1	Inverclyde East	8491	8573
Ward 2	Inverclyde East Central	7988	8017
Ward 3	Inverclyde Central	7702	7797
Ward 4	Inverclyde North	10236	10299
Ward 5	Inverclyde West	8631	8673
Ward 6	Inverclyde South West	9200	9300
Ward 7	Inverclyde South	7793	7877
	Inverclyde Totals	60041	60536
	Renfrewshire Council		
Ward 1	Renfrew North and Braehead	13212	13076
Ward 2	Renfrew South and Gallowhill	9448	9265
Ward 3	Paisley Northeast and Raiston	9256	9066
Ward 4	Paisley Northwest	13302	13016
Ward 5	Paisley East and Central	9733	9586
Ward 6	Paisley Southeast	9574	9347
Ward 7	Paisley Southwest	12037	11866
Ward 8	Johnstone South and Elderslie	13072	12893
Ward 9	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	11965	11732
Ward 10	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	12314	12084
Ward 11	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	11288	11290
Ward 12	Ersikine and Inchinnan	13430	13133
	Renfrewshire Totals	138631	136354
	RVJB Totals	270909	269504