



Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Report to: Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Meeting on: 16th September 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. 2022 Canvass

- 2.1 The 2022 canvass started on Monday 4th July 2022, with publication of the revised register due to take place by 1st December 2022.
- 2.2 As a precursor to the start of the canvass, National Data Matching of the register to the records of DWP took place on Monday 6th June 2022, with local data matching following. These matching stages help identify the appropriate form of communication to be issued to each household.
- 2.3 Where an email address was held then the initial contact was by email, and where there was no response then the appropriate letter was issued to the household. In other cases the initial contact was by letter. Where a response was required then there were a range of options for the elector to utilise including internet, phone and mail.
- 2.4 If an email address wasn't held or there was no response to an email then letters were sent to the property. Where all the electors in a household were data matched then a CCA letter was issued, this letter does not require a response unless the information on it isn't correct. A total of 101,639 CCA letters were issued. In circumstances where not all the electors in a household were data matched then a CCB letter is issued, this letter requires a response to either confirm that the electors shown on it are correct or to inform us of changes. There were 39,680 CCB letters issued.
- 2.5 The final stage of the canvass is a visit to the property for those households where a response was required and none received. This stage began at the end of August and will involve visits to 23,346 properties.

3. Future Elections

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

4. Elections Act 2022

- 4.1 The Elections Act 2022 received Royal Assent on 28th 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 was due to come into force on 1st December 2022, however delays in secondary legislation mean that this is likely to come into force in January 2023 and will require the ERO to issue a Voter ID document to electors that apply for it. Changes to Postal Voting application process for the UK Parliamentary Elections and changes to the eligibility to be registered as an Overseas Elector will come into force at a later date.
- 4.2 I will be attending a Seminar run Jointly by The Department of Leveling Up Communities and Housing and the Association of Electoral Administrators on 12th September where it is expected that more details of the Secondary legislation and implementation of the Act will be available.
- 4.3 A meeting with representatives of the Returning Officers for the three Councils has been arranged to ensure that our processes can be updated to reflect the required changes.

5 Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries

- 5.1 Boundaries Scotland announced that the Second Review of the constituencies and regions of the Scottish Parliament began on 1st September 2022. The aim of the review is to recommend constituencies, and regions, of similar electorate size while also taking account of local authority areas, special geographical circumstances, maintenance of local ties and any inconveniences caused by the alteration of the existing boundaries.
- 5.2 Provisional proposals for consultation are expected in Spring 2023, with a final report due by 1st May 2025 and if approved by the Scottish Parliament, the new boundaries will be effective at the next Scottish Parliament election, scheduled to take place in May 2026.

6 Procurement

- 6.1 The contracts for both our Electoral Management System (EMS) and Print and Scan Services are due for renewal during the first quarter of 2023. Discussions are ongoing with Renfrewshire Council's Corporate Procurement Unit and a timetable for these procurements has been agreed in line with the Valuation Joint Board Contract Standing Orders. The outcome of these procurements will be reported to the Board.

6. Recommendations

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

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6th September 2022

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