

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....7th February 2013

1. Title of Item/Report

Review of Police and Crime Commissioner Election

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided feedback following the Police and Crime Commissioner Election.

The first election for the new PCC for the Cleveland Force Area had been held on 15 November. This was a new election administered under new legislation and guidance and using the Supplementary voting system (SV) which was new to two of the four local authorities within the Cleveland Force Area:-

- Hartlepool
- Middlesbrough
- Redcar & Cleveland
- Stockton

Stockton acted as the Lead Authority for the elections for the Cleveland force area which included the Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) role. The management of the election was unique and challenging and this was detailed within the report.

Working across four local authority boundaries presented a range of practical difficulties and steps were taken to ensure high levels of co-ordination, consistency and communication.

The report highlighted the verification, what went well and any further issues.

In order to inform future planning and identify areas for improvement, a short survey was circulated to:-

- Presiding officers and poll clerks (199 responses received)
- Verification and Count Supervisors and Assistants (101 responses received)
- Polling Station Inspectors (7 responses received)

- Postal Vote Opening Supervisors and Assistants (17 responses received)
- LROs and election teams (1 survey returned; other comments via email)
- Candidates/ Agents and count attendees (2 surveys returned; other comments via email)

The response rate was high with most polling staff and verification and count staff returning the survey. The feedback comments were very detailed and would be subject to further consideration and would assist with the planning of future elections. Overall, comments from respondents were extremely positive. The key themes were set out within the report.

In order to gauge the views of residents, a Viewpoint survey was undertaken. The responses confirmed the feedback from telephone calls during the election period and at polling stations. A summary of the responses was detailed within the report.

In addition to the viewpoint survey, during the annual canvass those residents who chose to complete their registration using the online service were invited to take part in a survey at the end of the registration process. In addition to the standard questions on registration, residents were also asked whether they were aware of the election in November. 31% of respondents said that they were aware of the PCC election in November compared to an average of 39% across the participating councils.

In conclusion despite the challenges of a new election and voting system combined with a November poll, there were no significant problems encountered during the hours of poll and verification and count processes ran very smoothly. The vast majority of negative comments from residents were about the lack of pre-election material particularly in relation to candidates and this has been fed back to the Electoral Commission and the Association of Electoral Administrators.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To inform future planning and identify areas for improvement.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 15th February 2013

Proper Officer  
11 February 2013