

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting10th November 2016

1. Title of Item/Report

Elections Update

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided feedback from May 2016 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Elections and the EU Referendum June 2016 and considered the implications of planning for the forthcoming Mayoral Elections in May 2017 and future election programmes.

The report highlighted what went well, lessons learned and the next steps needed to allow the Returning Officer to undertake a successful Combined Authority Mayoral Election in 2017 and plan for future polls.

Elections teams faced unprecedented challenges in 2016 with nationwide polls in May followed by the EU Referendum in June, both coming on the back of the transition to Individual Electoral Registration (IER). By way of illustrating the scale of the work undertaken in Stockton

PCC Election

- 400 assenter details on nomination papers had to be checked against the electoral register, across four Council areas
- 101 agents were appointed
- 100 polling stations were booked
- 435 staff were appointed to 1,078 jobs
- 32,249 postal ballot packs were issued and 17,224 were receipted and opened
- 1021 postal votes were returned on polling day which all had to be opened and processed for verification as soon as possible after 10pm

EU Referendum

- 100 polling stations were booked
- 536 staff were appointed to 1,098 jobs
- 34,953 postal ballot packs were issued and 31,520 were receipted and opened representing an unprecedented 90% turnout of postal voters

- A staggering 1950 postal votes were returned on polling day which all had to be opened and processed for verification as soon as possible after 10pm

The interest in the EU Referendum and extension of the registration deadline also resulted in a surge of registration and postal vote applications which put additional pressures on the Electoral Team working to new IER processes at a time when work on administering the elections was gathering pace. During the statutory elections period:

- 8,626 registration applications were received
- 1499 registration applications were received during the 24 hour extension to the registration deadline between 8 and 9 June
- 2,418 postal vote applications were received

Overall, the 2016 polls at Stockton were delivered successfully despite the significant challenges. Clear leadership, effective team working and project management enabled a timely and planned approach to delivery including positive working relationships with partners and suppliers and thereby achieving a successful election outcome. Clear roles and good communications contributed to this success and stood the Council in good stead for future elections.

Regular meetings were held in the region and sub region particularly in the early planning stages. These meetings and good communication with the Electoral Commission and Association of Electoral Administrators continued to be invaluable in sharing ideas and best practice.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To update Cabinet

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, 18th November 2016

Proper Officer
14 November 2016