

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....18th July 2019

1. Title of Item/Report

Canvass Reform

2. Record of the Decision

On 12 March 2019, the Cabinet Office published an interim statement of policy regarding reform of the canvass. The Government would be amending legislation governing the annual canvass with canvass reform implemented from the start of the 2020 annual canvass. The report set out existing and new arrangements and the implications of the changes.

With regard to the impact of the changes there would be significant impact on business processes and updates required to the Electoral Management Software.

There would also need to be consideration of how the changes might impact on registration levels. For example, it was anticipated that attainer registration would dip as a result of the changes. The resources that were freed up as part of canvass reform would need to be re-directed not only to non-matched properties but also to boost registration levels in under-registered groups.

In advance of canvass reform, it was essential that all UPRNs were up to date in the electoral register. The electoral team regularly update this information. In addition, property data had been sent to GIS team for matching against ONS records. Any anomalies would be investigated and corrected. This exercise would ensure that all properties were in their correct polling district ahead of sending data for matching.

Other activities included cleansing of data (including the deletion of outdated potential and pending electors), reviewing data sharing agreements with local data holders, the identification of properties that would be canvassed under Route 3 and determining the timescale for electors to be excluded from the data match step where they had recently registered.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To update on Canvass Reform.

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, 26 July 2019.

Proper Officer  
22 July 2019