

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## LICENSING, HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

19 NOVEMBER 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>UPDATE ON ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on two activities being undertaken within Electoral Services over the next few months.

- (i) Absent Voter Personal Identifier Refresh
- (ii) Mini Canvass

1.2 Details of the two activities are set out in Appendix 1.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

#### 2.1 Absent Voter Personal Identifier Refresh

Under the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001, Electoral Registration Officers must, by 31 January each year, send every registered absent voter whose record is more than five years old a notice requiring them to provide a fresh signature if they wish to retain their absent vote.

The notice requests them to supply a specimen of their signature, and explain that if this is not received within six weeks of the date of the notice their absent voting facility will be cancelled.

A positive point of the exercise is the continued security measures that are in place at election time.

#### 2.2 Mini Canvass

The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) has a duty under Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983 to take all necessary steps to maintain the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register.

A proactive approach is required throughout the year and not just during the annual canvass in order to maintain accurate and complete registers, identifying people who are not registered individually and encourage them to register ensuring as far as possible that all eligible persons are on the register and that all non-eligible persons are removed.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

3.1 The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) must take all necessary steps to maintain the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 Such options are set out in this report.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 None

### **6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS**

6.1 None

### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

7.1 There are no such implications arising.

### **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

8.1 Such implications are set out in this report.

### **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Such implications are set out in this report.

### **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

### **11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no such implications arising.

### **12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no such implications arising.

### **13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

13.1 That the report be noted by the Committee

### **14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

14.1 To keep members of the Committee updated on Electoral Services activities.

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**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Electoral Activities – PI Refresh and Mini Canvass

**BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None

**BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY**

None

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date
NONE	