

Agenda Item 7.

TITLE	Report of the Returning Officer – Borough and Town Council Elections - 3 May 2018
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 24 May 2018
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Andrew Moulton, Assistant Director Governance

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY
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To inform Council of the process and the results of the recent Borough Council elections.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the report of the Returning Officer.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

On 3 May 2018 elections were held in eighteen wards of the Borough Council and two wards of Woodley Town Council.

Feedback has been received at most stages of the elections process which will be reviewed and, where appropriate, built into the planning for future elections.

The results from the Borough elections can be found at Appendix A.
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Background

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 3 May 2018, multiple elections were held for the Borough Council and Woodley Town Council.
- 1.2 The total number of electors for Borough wards was 81,707.
- 1.3 58 candidates contested the 18 available seats on the Borough Council across 18 wards. Of those, the representation of the various parties was as follows:
 - 18 Conservative
 - 2 Green Party
 - 17 Liberal Democrat
 - 18 Labour
 - 3 Independent
- 1.4 Elections were also held in two wards of Woodley Town Council.

2. The Election Process

- 2.1 Planning for elections takes place many months in advance of election day.
- 2.2 The nomination arrangements for candidates were complex. However, the procedure ran smoothly overall with positive feedback from some quarters.
- 2.3 On the day of the poll 60 polling stations were in use during the polling hours of 7am to 10pm. Visiting/inspecting officers attended all polling stations to ensure that all statutory procedures were adhered to under the Representation of the People Acts, and also that access arrangements were adequate for disabled voters and that health and safety aspects were covered. Feedback from this process will be used to help improve further the arrangements for future elections.
- 2.4 The verification and count of all ballot papers for the elections took place at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre overnight on 3rd May and through the early hours of Friday 4th May with individual results declared between 12.20am and 1.50am. Again, all feedback received about the venue and count process is being taken into account to improve future processes.
- 2.5 At the elections in May 2018 over 427 casual election jobs were staffed and I would like to thank all Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks, counting and postal vote opening staff, supervisors, and the Democratic & Electoral Services Team who carried out this important task.

3. Election Results

- 3.1 Full details of the Borough election results, including the turnout figures in each ward, are set out in Appendix A.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The elections processes were complex and labour intensive, and, in the main, ran smoothly and in accordance with plans. Where any improvements are identified, these will be built into our processes for future elections.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	There are no financial implications associated with this report		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no other financial implications associated with this report.

List of Background Papers

None

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ELECTION OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

3 MAY 2018

RETURN OF COUNCILLORS ELECTED

Ward	Turnout by Ward	Name	Political Party	Ret't date
Arborfield	41%	Gary Cowan	Independent	2022
Bulmershe & Whitegates	43%	Carl Doran	Labour	2022
Coronation	44%	Keith Baker	Conservative	2022
Emmbrook	47%	Imogen Shepherd- Dubey	Liberal Democrat	2022
Eventons	41%	Helen Power	Liberal Democrat	2022
Finchampstead North	41%	Daniel Sargeant	Conservative	2022
Finchampstead South	40%	Simon Weeks	Conservative	2022
Hawkedon	35%	David Hare	Liberal Democrat	2022
Hillside	43%	Christopher Smith	Conservative	2022
Loddon	33%	Bill Soane	Conservative	2022
Maiden Erlegh	40%	Guy Grandison	Conservative	2022
Norreys	40%	Rachel Burgess	Labour	2022
Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe	40%	Graham Howe	Conservative	2022
Shinfield South	31%	Barrie Patman	Conservative	2022
South Lake	45%	Jenny Cheng	Conservative	2022
Swallowfield	35%	Stuart Munro	Conservative	2022
Winnersh	36%	Prue Bray	Liberal Democrat	2022
Wokingham Without	38%	Angus Ross	Conservative	2022