

# Agenda Item 8.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Report of the Returning Officer – Borough, Parish and Police &amp; Crime Commissioner Elections - 5 May 2016</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Council on 19 May 2016
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

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 5 May 2016 elections were held for the Borough Council, four parish Councils (although uncontested) and the Police & Crime Commissioner election for the Thames Valley Region.

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.

## **Background**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 On 5 May 2016, multiple elections were held for the Borough Council, parish Councils, and the Police & Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley Region.
- 1.2 72 candidates contested 19 seats on the Borough Council in 18 wards. This included the casual vacancy in the Bulmershe & Whitegates ward which became vacant on 24 March 2016. Of those the representation of the various parties was as follows:
  - 19 Conservative
  - 9 Green Party
  - 19 Liberal Democrat
  - 19 Labour
  - 1 Trade Unionists and Socialists Against Cuts
  - 3 UKIP
  - 1 Independent
  - 1 No description
- 1.3 Elections were held in four parishes and these were all uncontested.
- 1.4 Police & Crime Commissioner Elections are held every 5 years. Wokingham Borough is one of 16 councils that comprise the Thames Valley Region. The verification of ballot papers was undertaken locally at Loddon Valley but the count for that election was held centrally in Abingdon on Friday 6 May.

### **2. The Election Process**

- 2.1 Planning for elections takes place many months in advance of election day. This year, the planning process was made more complex due to the combined elections and also the announcement during the planning period of the need to plan for the forthcoming EU Referendum which is due to be held on 23 June 2016.
- 2.2 The nomination arrangements were complex. However, the procedure ran smoothly overall with positive feedback from some quarters.
- 2.3 On the day of the poll 83 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 of all ballot papers for the elections took place in one centralised location at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre. After completion of verification, the Police & Crime Commissioner boxes were transported to Abingdon in time for a regional count which took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The count for Borough

elections took place through the early hours of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May with results declared between 2.30am and 4.00am. 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 2016 over 550 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 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, labour intensive, and made more complex this year as a consequence of having to run the Police & Crime Commissioner election alongside the local elections, as the Police & Crime Commissioner election had to be given priority.

### 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

5 MAY 2016

## RETURN OF COUNCILLORS ELECTED

Ward	Turnout by Ward	Name	Political Party	Ret't date
Bulmershe & Whitegates	42%	Andy Croy	Lab	2020
		Alison Swaddle	Cons	2018
Charvil	45%	Emma Hobbs	Cons	2020
Emmbrook	43%	UllaKarin Clark	Cons	2020
Evendons	32%	Dianne King	Cons	2020
Finchampstead North	38%	Charles Margetts	Cons	2020
Finchampstead South	31%	Ian Pittock	Cons	2020
Hawkedon	32%	Clive Jones	Lib Dem	2020
Hillside	37%	Pauline Jorgensen	Cons	2020
Hurst	36%	Wayne Smith	Cons	2020
Loddon	29%	Richard Dolinski	Cons	2020
Maiden Erlegh	32%	Ken Miall	Cons	2020
Norreys	32%	Malcolm Richards	Cons	2020
Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe	34%	John Halsall	Cons	2020
Shinfield South	27%	Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Cons	2020
Twyford	46%	Lindsay Ferris	Lib Dem	2020
Wescott	33%	Oliver Whittle	Cons	2020
Winnersh	35%	Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey	Lib Dem	2020
Wokingham Without	33%	Pauline Helliard-Symons	Cons	2020