

ELECTION REVIEW 2019

Executive Summary

On 2 May 2019, Woking took part in the second set of pilots to trial voter ID in polling stations. All electors who voted in the elections were required to bring one of a specified list of photographic ID.

Woking's experiences from 2018 were used to amend the pilot process, particularly the list of ID to be presented at the polling station, as well as the process for applying for a local elector card.

The attached report at Annex 1 sets out the work undertaken as part of the preparations for the elections. The Elections and Electoral Registration Review Panel considered the report at their meeting on 4 July and a copy of the minutes is attached at Annex 2.

Extensive publicity was given to the pilot, as well as working with local community groups to ensure all sections of the community were aware of the requirements for the pilot. This communications work was expanded following feedback from 2018.

As in 2018, the electorate's response to the pilot was very positive, with over 99% of voters bring the correct ID the first time when they attended the polling stations. The percentage of electors not bringing correct ID and not returning halved compared to 2018, which was a welcome improvement.

Going forward, the Cabinet Office and Electoral Commission are reviewing the outcomes of all the pilots carried out, and it is expected that recommendations will be made later in the summer for future implementation nationally.

Three weeks following the Borough Elections, the European Parliamentary elections were held across the UK. Annex 3 details the work carried out to prepare and run these elections, which were confirmed as taking place on 7 May 2019.

Recommendations

The Council is requested to:

RESOLVE That the outcome of the 2019 voter ID pilot be noted.

The Council has the authority to determine the recommendation set out above.
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Background Papers: None.

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