

AGENDA ITEM 6

DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

17 JULY 2017

Commenced: 4.00pm

Terminated: 4.30pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (In the Chair), J. Fitzpatrick, K. Quinn, Taylor and Ward

Apologies: Councillor P. Buckley, Fairfoull and Warrington

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 24 April 2017 be approved as a correct record subject to the date for the return of election expenses being amended to 14 July 2017.

2. 2017 GREATER MANCHESTER MAYORAL ELECTION AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director (Governance, Resources and Pensions) which outlined the administrative issues that had arisen during the 2017 Greater Manchester Mayoral Election and General Election.

It was explained that registration was a significant issue, placing considerable strain on the election team in the weeks leading up to the registration deadline for both elections. Registration created significant capacity issues with the Election team and wider Democratic Services and Executive Support teams.

With regard to postal votes for the Greater Manchester Mayoral Election returns totaled 18,437 or 50.6% and for the General Election returns totaled 34,038 or 80% for the three constituencies. Members were reminded that the verification of postal vote returns was designed to reduce the risk of electoral fraud. Members were informed that the Returning Officer and his staff were confident that the processes in place for postal vote verification in Tameside were robust, with 100% checking of signatures and dates of birth, together with further manual checks undertaken of all rejected ballot papers to identify any patterns or areas of concern. This had been recognised in the Electoral Commission performance standards where Tameside meet all the performance standards including electoral integrity.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update be noted;
- (ii) That all staff who worked on the elections be thanked for their contribution to the efficient running of the elections and their contribution to the democratic process.

3. ELECTORAL COMMISSION BULLETINS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director (Governance, Resources and Pensions) that provided Members with recent copies of the Electoral Commission new bulletin which set out current issues affecting the democratic framework for local government.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CHAIR