



Glasgow City Council

**Public Petitions & General Purposes Policy
Development Committee**

Report by City Electoral Registration Officer

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Item 4

2nd December 2014

INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update on progress made since the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) on 19 September 2014; outline plans for ongoing activity for the remainder of the transitional phase which ends on 27 February 2015 when the revised electoral register is published.

Recommendations:

That the Committee notes the progress made to date in relation to the transition to Individual Electoral Registration and the public awareness and engagement activity.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

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1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress made since the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) on 19 September 2014 and outlines plans for ongoing activity for the remainder of the transitional phase which ends on the 27 February 2015 when the transitional IER electoral register is published.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 To be able to vote at elections in Great Britain each person needs to be registered as an elector. The way people register is changing during 2014 with the transition to IER
- 2.2 IER is a set of processes which involve each individual making their own application for registration, and where the identity of each person on the electoral register is subject to a verification check. Once a person is registered individually under IER their registration is continuous until they move to a different address or for any other reason they are no longer eligible to remain registered as an elector.
- 2.3 The start of IER involves confirming the identity of current electors by comparing entries in the register against national datasets. Those who are not confirmed in this way will be asked to make a new application for registration. Unconfirmed electors who do not respond to this invitation within a reasonable period will be sent further invitations, and must also be canvassed.

3.0 Confirmation Live Run

- 3.1 The Confirmation Live Run (CLR) took place on the 22 September when the electoral register for Glasgow was sent to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for data matching against names and addresses on their Customer Information Service database. The results showed a match rate across the city of 62%.
- 3.2 Local data matching then took place comparing non matched electors against Council records. This enabled further matches to be accepted and increased the total city wide match rate to 78%.
- 3.3 The number of electors confirmed to pass directly onto the new register is therefore 378,011. The tables show a breakdown of the results across the city both by Ward and Scottish Parliamentary Constituency.

Results by City Ward

Ward	CLR electorate	Matched (%)
1 LINN	23388	19597 (85.38%)
2 NEWLANDS/AULDBURN	18362	15150 (82.5%)
3 GREATER POLLOK	25762	21800 (84.62%)
4 CRAIGTON	23842	20465 (85.83%)
5 GOVAN	25235	19031 (75.41%)
6 POLLOKSHIELDS	19163	14175 (73.97%)
7 LANGSIDE	20204	16343 (80.88%)
8 SOUTHSIDE CENTRAL	24064	17456 (72.53%)
9 CALTON	18721	13493 (72.07%)
10 ANDERSTON/CITY	22245	14243 (64.02%)
11 HILLHEAD	23142	15010 (64.86%)
12 PARTICK WEST	27423	21530 (78.51%)
13 GARSCADDEN/SCOTSTOUNHILL	22535	18914 (83.93%)
14 DRUMCHAPEL/ANNIESLAND	22651	18811 (83.04%)
15 MARYHILL/KELVIN	23915	19124 (77.59%)
16 CANAL	24646	19217 (77.97%)
17 SPRINGBURN	15545	11750 (75.58%)
18 EAST CENTRE	24543	18792 (76.56%)
19 SHETTLESTON	22604	18605 (82.30%)
20 BAILLIESTON	25985	22276 (85.54%)
21 NORTH EAST	27012	22232 (82.30%)

Results by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency

Constituency	Electorate	% matched
KELVIN	66380	43992 66.27%
POLLOK	62642	53471 85.36%
ANNIESLAND	58417	48788 83.52%
SHETTLESTON	59705	47974 80.35%
MARYHILL/SPRINGBURN	57869	45445 78.53%
CATHCART	62200	50955 81.92%
SOUTHSIDE	55993	40096 71.61%
PROVAN	59456	47290 79.54%

3.4 The results of the CLR have informed ongoing activity including the IER write out and community engagement described below.

4.0 IER Write out to Electors during 2014/15 Canvass

4.1 There are three key elements to the IER write out

4.1.1 **Household Enquiry Forms (HEFs)** sent to all properties that were either empty or where ineligible electors lived, for example where all residents at a property were not entitled to be registered due to their nationality. HEFs were also sent to all electors who did not respond to the last household canvass last winter.

4.1.2 **Confirmation Letters**, these were sent out to all electors who had matched through the CLR with DWP records. These letters informed the elector they did not have to do anything as they would be automatically re- registered under the new system. The letter advised whether the elector was included on the open register and provided details of how they could be removed from this.

4.1.3 **Invitation to Register Letters (ITRs)**, these were sent to electors whose details did not match with either DWP records and we were unable to match them against Council tax records.

4.2 England and Wales commenced their IER Canvass on the 10 June 2014. The wording used in the confirmation letters they sent to the matched electors generated large volumes of queries, which in most cases the Electoral services departments struggled to cope with. As a consequence of this, and in an attempt to flatten customer contact, it was decided to stagger the issue of IER letters within Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies. The IER write out timetable for Glasgow is shown below.

Constituency	Delivery Date
KELVIN	28/10/14
POLLOK	4/11/14
ANNIESLAND	6/11/14
SHETTLESTON	11/11/14
MARYHILL/SPRINGBURN	13/11/14
CATHCART	18/11/14
SOUTHSIDE	20/11/14
PROVAN	25/11/14

5.0 Communication, Public Awareness and Engagement during Canvass

To maximise canvass return we have identified specific groups in Glasgow who are more likely not to respond to Invitation to Register letters and therefore require additional engagement activities.

To compliment our City wide engagement plan, we have created 8 individual engagement strategies based on Scottish parliamentary Constituencies.

These detail the activities taken in these areas in addition to the national campaign by the Electoral Commission to maximise registration.

2 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: No

Legal: Statutory

Personnel: No

Procurement:

Council Strategic Plan: Making best use of its resources and to manage the transition required to deliver the challenge of changing the Electoral Registration process to Individual Electoral Registration.

Equality Impacts:

EQIA carried out: yes

Outcome: (no significant impact, positive impact or negative impact)

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: No

Social: No

Economic: No

3 Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.