

**Individual Elector Registration**

**1. Background**

- a) By law, IER must be fully introduced by 1 December 2015, after the General Election in May 2015. From then, electoral registration will be individual (rather than household registration as now) and those people not automatically “passport” onto the new electoral roll will be required to produce their national insurance number (NINO) and date of birth (DOB) on registration.
- b) There are transitional arrangements. Electors will be taken off the electoral roll on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 if they have not:-
  - been “passport” in a matching of our electoral roll with DWP data, or
  - responded to the 2013/4 canvass (October to February), or
  - subsequently responded to IER requests to register.

**2. Dry Run**

- a) In June 2013, there was a dry run of the matching of data on our electoral roll with DWP data to give an indication of the likely outcome of the live data matching in June 2014. Various algorithms were applied during this matching process relating to the name of the elector and the address. The results were marked as red (no match) amber (weak match) and green (match).
- b) The live run will be the only opportunity to “passport” electors. Following the live run, LAs will have to undertake a series of measures under the IER regulations to increase the match rate ahead of the publication of the Register on 1 December 2015. The Cabinet Office used the dry run to gauge the amount of work local authorities will have to do to optimise the matching process following the live run. This in turn drove funding allocations.
- c) The results were what we would have expected from a London Borough with a high transitory demographic. When undertaking some preliminary data matching we found that a number of red matches resulted from new electors moving in, where the old electors, who had probably moved out, remained registered. This is not surprising for a register that was six months out of date at the time of the dry run. When the live run is conducted in June 2014, the register will be four months out of date.
- d) Approximately 68% of the 193,000 electors on our register were a green match, 5% were amber and 27% were red. The Cabinet Office tell us that the average match rate across Great Britain was 78% and the average for London was 68%.

**3. Local data matching**

- a) It should be stressed that neither dry run nor local data matching will change any existing records on our register. It is an indicator of what will happen when we undertake the live run and subsequent local data matching in June 2014.

- b) After the dry run, we carried out a local data matching exercise, and following matching with Council Tax records, the green match increased to 76%. If the results so far are a reliable reflection of the likely outcome of the live run in June 2014, we estimate that we will be able to passport approximately 80% of the electors on the register as at 1 July 2014.

#### **4. For those not passported,**

The process will be as follows:-

- Between July 2014 and December 2015, household enquiry forms (HEFs) will be sent to householders of properties that have not responded to the annual canvass and properties shown as void on our database (e.g. because of non eligible residents) seeking to confirm data of residents at the address. If there is no response, by law, another form must be sent and if there is still no response, then a door knock must ensue. We will probably have to send out about 20,000 HEFs.
- Also between July 2014 and December 2015, approximately 40,000 invitations to register will have to be sent out. Broadly, these forms are to be sent to individuals on the register whose details do not match the DWP records, and to those not yet on our register of whom we are made aware. These people must provide a NINO and DOB. Again these must be sent at least twice if there is no response followed by a knock on the door. If they do not match they will have to provide other identification and some form of attestation (yet to be confirmed) to Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).
- We currently have just over 5000 absent voters that do not match. Absent voters are the only category of electors who will have to match ahead of the Parliamentary elections in May 2015 or they will lose their right to vote by post. They will however be able to vote in person at the polling station.

#### **5. Risks**

The key risks are:

- Fall in the electoral roll in December 2015
- The competing demands of the Mayoral, Local and European elections.
- Considerable potential for voter confusion

#### **6. Next Steps**

- a) Continue with local data matching and identify other potential local databases
- b) Develop and implement an IER engagement plan
- c) Conduct live run and local data matching in July 2014
- d) Confirm registrations of "passported" electors in July 2014 (estimated to be approximately 143,000)
- e) For non passported electors conduct targeted canvass and registration initiative, post July 2014