

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE			
Report Title	Review of the 2018 Elections		
Key Decision	n/a		Item No.
Wards	All		
Contributors	Jamie Baker, Electoral Services Manager		
Class	Part 1	Date: 19 July 2018	

1. **Summary**

This report gives a review of the elections held in 2018 – the Mayoral and Local elections of 3 May and the Lewisham East parliamentary by-election of 14 June.

2. **Purpose**

To review the delivery of the elections and examine any lessons to be learned for future elections in Lewisham.

3. **Recommendation**

That the Committee make note of the report and provide their own observations and recommendations for future Lewisham elections.

4 **Background**

4.1 The Mayoral and Local elections were held on 3 May 2018. They were scheduled a long time in advance and the electoral services team had a long time to prepare.

4.2 There were 211 candidates for ward councillor and 7 candidates for the Mayor.

4.3 The team made a large number of changes, mostly small, to the delivery of these elections compared to those of 2014 (the last Mayoral and Local elections).

4.4 The most significant change from a candidate's point of view was the count, which was held at Knights Academy in Downham.

4.5 A parliamentary by-election was held in Lewisham East on 14 June. This was because Heidi Alexander resigned to become Deputy Mayor for London.

4.6 As there was very little notice for this election the administration was put under some stress but the performance was strong as before.

6. **Legal implications**

6.1 None.

7. **Equalities implications**

7.1 The delivery of elections is subject to the DDA and Equality Act provisions. In particular we must ensure there is equal access to voter registration and voting at elections.

7.2 This means that our polling places must be accessible and our postal voting processes do not unfairly discriminate against any particular group.

7.3 Our review identified a couple of polling places where the provision for people with mobility issues must be improved for future elections.

7.4 No other specific equalities issues have arisen.

8. **Financial implications**

8.1 The Mayoral and Local elections cost the council approximately £450k. This must be funded locally. The parliamentary by-election will be paid for by central government (once we have submitted full accounts).

9. **Crime and disorder implications**

9.1 The hustings event for the parliamentary by-election, held on 12 June, had to be cancelled due to a large protest (concerning a particular candidate). The electoral services review identifies this as an area to improve in future.

9.2 We must find a way to enable residents to meet and put questions to election candidates without fear of violence or intimidation.

10. **Environmental implications**

There are no environmental implications arising.

11. **Background documents**

See Appendix A – Elections 2018 – The Review

See Appendix B – Lewisham East By-election – The Review

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