Lewisham East By-election
Lessons Learned

Overall this election went extremely well. Very few issues arose and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Despite that, there are some things we can improve for next time.

1. Candidates
    a. We had a large number of candidates
    b. It wasn't easy to predict which parties would be interested
    c. Not all information was clearly displayed on the website
    d. **Recommendation**. We should consider having a separate area on the website for candidates and agents to make it easier for them to understand what they must do and who they should contact

2. Staffing
    a. Coming so soon after the May elections helped us. There was plenty of staff to choose from
    b. The tight deadlines we set for staff to respond didn't cause as many problems as we feared
    c. **Recommendation.** Look at our timetable for staffing the next election. Can we make the deadlines tighter, given this election has proven staff are able to respond quickly when asked to.
    d. **Recommendation.** Update the default staffing lists on Express

3. Polling stations
    a. The VO and RO visits identified a few stations where accessibility for people with mobility issues must be improved
    b. They also identified a station we don't want to use again
    c. The ballot boxes at some stations were sealed insecurely and had to be re-sealed later in the day. We can improve the instructions for next time
    d. **Recommendation.** Feed the results of these visits into our review of polling districts and places. Aim to either improve these stations or replace with new venues

4. The count
    a. The process was quick, with an early finish, and could have been even quicker
    b. The civic suite allowed for plenty of space. However, counting in 2 rooms does present a challenge for the supervision, especially for the accountants
    c. Counting in wards went well, however the distribution of postal votes could have been even better to prevent some wards finishing much sooner than others
    d. The results declaration was slick and presented Lewisham very well
    e. **Recommendation**. Test Sharepoint or other accounting solutions to identify where we can save even more time