

<b>ELECTIONS COMMITTEE</b>		
Report Title	Reports to the Election Committee on 27.6.19	
Key Decision	n/a	Item No.
Wards	All	
Contributors	Jamie Baker, Electoral Services Manager	
Class	Part 1	Date: 18 June 2019

### 1. **Summary**

This report introduces the items to be presented to the Elections Committee to be held on 27 June 2019.

### 2. **Purpose**

To review each item and advise on policies and procedures for future election and electoral registration activity. In particular:

- a. To receive information about Neighbourhood Planning Referendums that may need to be held in the coming months
- b. Review the by-elections held on Thursday 2 May 2019
- c. Review the European Parliamentary election held on 23 May 2019
- d. Receive information about the Polling District Review to be completed before 1 December 2019
- e. To receive an update on the Local Government Boundary Review
- f. To receive information about the 2019 Annual Electoral Registration Canvass

### 3. **Recommendation**

That the Committee make note of each item and provide their own observations and recommendations for future Lewisham elections and registration activity.

### 4 **Background**

- 4.1 Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum intend to deliver their formal submission of a neighbourhood plan. The likely result will be a neighbourhood planning referendum. Appendix A gives detail into

neighbourhood planning referendums. A planning officer will attend the meeting to answer questions

- 4.2 On Thursday 2 May 2019 by-elections were held in Evelyn and Whitefoot Wards to elect 2 new Councillors. The by-elections were a success. Appendix B provides detail about these elections, the challenges the team faced and the results
- 4.3 The European Parliamentary elections were held on Thursday 23 May 2019. Particular challenges for Lewisham included the short timetable caused by the late notice of the Government to confirm we would contest the elections, and the additional responsibility on Janet Senior as the Regional Returning Officer for London. These challenges and more are included in Appendix C. Appendix D gives information about the EU residents who were unable to vote including actions that Lewisham took
- 4.3 Electoral Services will be undertaking a review of Lewisham's polling places and polling districts during the next few months. Appendix E provides details of the scope and objectives of this review, and how Councillors can contribute
- 4.4 The Committee will receive an update on Lewisham's Local Government Boundary Review. Appendix F provides detail on what has happened in Stage 1 and what we can expect from Stage 2 when the Council and others will be required to submit proposals for new Ward boundaries in Lewisham
- 4.5 Finally, the Committee will receive a report on the plans for our 2019 electoral registration canvass. Further detail can be found in Appendix G

## 5. **Legal implications**

- 5.1 None.

## 6. **Equalities implications**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 This means that our polling places must be accessible and our postal voting processes do not unfairly discriminate against any particular group.
- 6.3 Our review will identify polling places where the provision for people with disabilities is below acceptable levels and detail our mitigation plans

**7. Financial implications**

- 7.1 The by-elections will cost approximately £25k which must be paid from Council funds. The European Parliamentary elections will cost around £525k but will be reimbursed by central government

**8. Crime and disorder implications**

- 8.1 None.

**9. Environmental implications**

There are no environmental implications arising.

**10. Additional documents**

- Appendix A – Neighbourhood Planning Referendums
- Appendix B – Review of local by-elections held on 2 May
- Appendix C – Review of EU Parliamentary election held on 23 May
- Appendix D – Report on EU Residents being unable to vote
- Appendix E – Polling District Review 2019
- Appendix F – Local Government Boundary Review
- Appendix G – Annual Electoral Registration Canvass 2019

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