


Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

16 July 2019

Subject:	Chairman's report to Council for the Select Committee for Electoral Participation
Director:	Director of Law and Governance, Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Tracey Hurst Electoral Services Manager Tracey_hurst@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council :

1. Receive and note the Chairman's Report on the Select Committee for Electoral Participation 2018-19 as detailed in Appendix 1
2. Receive the Recommendations of the Select Committee for Electoral Participation Committee as detailed in Appendix 2.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Council established a Select Committee for Electoral Participation to examine the current processes and initiatives in place for Electoral Engagement and Participation
- 1.2 The Committee is required to submit a Chairman's report to Council detailing the Select Committee's work throughout the year, any findings and recommendations.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 Through its work in ensuring that all citizens within Sandwell are engaged and able to participate in exercising their democratic right to vote, the Committee makes a positive contribution to Ambition 10.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Council on 22 May 2018, the Council established the Select Committee for Electoral Participation. Changes in electorate numbers had been highlighted and the Committee was established to examine the current processes employed in Sandwell and to look at ways to maximise electoral registration, engagement and participation within the borough.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Committee is to work collaboratively with Members, officers, other council departments and partnership groups to discuss and investigate the current mechanisms in place to actively engage and promote electoral participation and registration.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The report does not require a decision and therefore, no position analysis is necessary

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 Through its work, the Committee has consulted with various schools, colleges and community organisations across the borough of Sandwell.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 The report does not require a decision and therefore, no alternative options need to be considered.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no strategic resource implications arising from this report.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) has a duty under Section 9A of the Representation People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) to take all necessary steps to comply with their duty to maintain the electoral register, and to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that all those eligible are registered in it.

8.2 In addition to the statutory requirements for Electoral Registration Officers, the Electoral Commissions performance standards framework details the objectives that all EROs must deliver.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 It was not necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A data protection impact assessment is not required for this report. Any implications relating to Data Protection have been addressed as part of the Committee's findings and detailed in Appendix 1.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 There are no direct crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 There are no direct sustainability issues arising from this report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There are no issues relating to Council managed property or land arising from this report.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The Committee's conclusions and recommendations are detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of this report.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None

17 APPENDICES:

Appendix 1

Chairman's report on the Select Committee for Electoral Participation

Appendix 2

Select Committee for Electoral Participation – Summary of
Recommendations

Appendix 3

Terms of Reference for the Select Committee for Electoral Participation

Surjit Tour
Director of Law and Governance
and Monitoring Officer