



Derby City Council

**CORPORATE SCRUTINY AND
GOVERNANCE BOARD**
20 April 2015

Report of the Chair of Corporate Scrutiny and
Governance Board

ITEM 5

Review of Voter Turnout

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Voter turnout at Derby's local elections is well below that of some the neighbouring cities. The turnout at 2011 all out elections in Leicester for example was 41.1% whilst in Derby it was 39.2% in 2011 which fell to 34% in 2014. The Board therefore resolved at its October meeting to conduct a review on voter turnout.
- 1.2 The review involved receiving evidence from a range of sources including a comprehensive survey which looked at the reasons why people vote or don't vote. The Board also identifies possible measures that can be taken to increase local turnout.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider and approve the report on voter turnout as detailed in appendix 2.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Board conducted a detailed review and has now completed its report on voter turnout. It makes a series of recommendations which if implemented will help to increase turnout at local elections.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 A detailed report is attached in appendix 2.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	N/A
Other(s)	Phil O'Brien, Head of Democratic Services

For more information contact:	Mahroof Hussain 01332 643647 mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Review of Voter Turnout draft report

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 There are likely to be costs associated with delivering some of the recommendations contained in this report. However these have yet to be evaluated. It is Scrutiny Board's desire to keep the costs of implementation to its recommendations to a minimum due to Council's financial pressures.

Legal

- 2.1 Article 6.3 of the Council Constitution allows overview and scrutiny boards to assist the Council and the Council Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy.
- 2.2 There are likely to be a number of legal implications arising from this report as action is taken to address low voter turnout, and which will only be clearer as the detail surrounding each of the agreed proposals is resolved.

Personnel

- 3.1 The report makes a number of recommendations some of which are likely to have personnel implications. However these have yet to be evaluated.

IT

- 4.1 The report makes a number of recommendations some of which are likely to have IT implications. Recommendations to improve engagement with young people, greater use of social media will have IT implications.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people and the very nature of the Board looks in depth at equality in all its investigations. The review identifies lower voter turnout in wards with higher levels of deprivation. It also highlights that we need to do much more outreach work with Deaf people and minority communities to make sure they are fully aware of the voting systems.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management

9.1 None arising directly from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 The Council Plan 2015- 18 makes the following pledges over the next three years:

- A safe and pleasant environment for you to live and work.
- A strong community where we feel empowered and businesses are supported to grow.
- An ambitious and forward looking city with good prospects for everyone.
- A resilient Council, focusing on how we as a Council can deliver our services going forward.