

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10th SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT:-

CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Councillors Mrs Plenderleith (Chairman), Atkin (Vice-Chairman), and Mrs Patten

LABOUR GROUP

Councillors Bambrick, Heath and Pearson

OS/06. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Hood and Mrs Mead.

OS/07. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2014 were agreed as a true record.

OS/08. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM ITEMS ON AGENDA

None received.

OS/09. QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURUSANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10

None received.

OS/10. QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURUSANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11

None received.

OPEN

OS/11. PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

The Chief Executive addressed the Committee by giving a summary of what the Individual Electoral Registration (IER) is all about. He then introduced the Acting Electoral Services Officer, who gave a full overview of IER; talked through progress to date and answered questions from the Committee. In summary, the Acting Electoral Services Officer went on to say:

The IER is a set of processes which involve each individual making their own application for registration, and where the identity of each person in the electoral register is subject to a verification check. Once a person is registered individually under IER, their registration is continuous until they move to a different address or for any reason they are no longer eligible to remain registered as an elector.

The start of IER involved confirming the identity of current electors by comparing entries against the Department of Working Pensions and Council Tax datasets. From this we here at South Derbyshire District Council achieved a 91% match rate. Those who were not confirmed in this way have been asked to make a new application for registration. Unconfirmed electors who have not responded to this invitation are currently receiving reminder invitations to register. If they then fail to respond they will be canvassed during October and November.

Registration Officers will rely on several sources of information to discover the name and address of people who may be eligible for registration, including Household Enquiry Forms and local authority records.

Applications should include the applicant's date of birth and national insurance number, and these, with the elector's name, are sent for verification against government records.

Registration Officers will maintain an accurate register by using other sources of information such as death certificates, local authority records and information from managers of residential care homes to name a few.

The key change with IER is that Electors are now able to register on-line through the Cabinet Officer's "IER Digital Service". This is a straightforward procedure that is providing successful and currently over 1,300,000 applications have been made in this way.

OPEN

There has been a national press campaign which has now finished. Locally we have had the attached article appear in the Burton Mail, Swadlincote Times and Swadlincote Post. We have also used twitter to convey IER information.

We have sent posters and leaflets to many other places which include Toyota, local colleges, doctor's surgeries and housing associations regarding IER. Personal visits are being made to all care homes to explain any new IER processes. We also have a link on the two computers in reception so people can be encouraged to register on line.

After a very busy few weeks of phone calls after the initial write out we are now starting to process applications and download and upload data from the IER digital service on a daily basis.

RESOLVED:-

It was recommended that the Chief Executive be asked to consider a presentation to full Council before the end of the year.

OS/12. **REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)**

The Chief Executive asked the Committee to note the report on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee note the report.

OS/13. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Councillor Mrs Patten addressed the Committee by giving a brief verbal update on the provisions of dentistry in the district saying the initial report will be presented at October 2014 meeting.

The meeting terminated at 6.50pm

MRS. A. PLENDERLEITH

CHAIRMAN

OPEN