

## **COUNCIL**

**17 NOVEMBER 2015**

### **ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR T EYNON TO COUNCILLOR N J RUSHTON**

At the end of October Individual Electoral Registration stood at 82% of households in the District.

How can this Council achieve its target of 95% registration by the deadline for the Boundary Commission review, where are the challenges and how can Councillors help?

#### **RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR N J RUSHTON**

This year, as with previous years, the Council will comply with its statutory duties and best practice in the production of the electoral register. As such, we have sent a Household Enquiry Form, and where necessary a first and second reminder form, to every property in the District in order to ensure that we are aware of every resident that is eligible to be included on the register. Furthermore, we are currently in the process of undertaking a doorstep visit to each non-responding property. We are required to visit each household once, however, we have instructed our canvassers to make at least two visits in order to maximise response levels. We have also undertaken additional telephone canvassing where possible in order to ascertain who is eligible to be registered. As a consequence of this work, we have continually reached our target response rate in previous years and our current response rate this year exceeds that of other authorities in Leicestershire.

The challenges that we face in our District are in line with those seen nationally. Fundamentally, home movement is the most important factor that detracts from the completeness of the register. As such, the challenge that we face is in ensuring that the demographics that are associated with home movement such as young people, private renters, recent home movers and European Union citizens register themselves accordingly. It is for this reason that, in addition to our statutory duties, we also liaise directly with several external partners to maximise registration amongst these hard to reach groups. For example, we have forged links with residential care homes and site offices at new housing developments.

We would encourage every Member to take an interest in the electoral register for the area that they represent and to promote registration amongst their constituents. We are already working with some Members in providing them with resources such as registration forms and posters and would be keen to work with other Members in promoting registration in their Wards.

At the time of printing these papers the response rate was at 89%, and work will continue as we endeavour to achieve the target of 95% by 1 December 2015.