

# Return of Councillors Elected on Thursday 3rd May 2018

**Council**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

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Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

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## 1. Purpose and Reasons

1.1 To report the return of Councillors elected on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

1.2 It is necessary under the provisions of the Council's Constitution (Council Procedure Rules/Standing Orders) for the Council to report the return of Councillors elected at Borough Council elections to the Council's Annual meeting.

## 2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

2.1 Note and welcome the return of Councillors elected to Swindon Borough Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018, as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

## 3. Detail

3.1 The following Councillors were elected to serve on Swindon Borough Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018:-

WARD	NAME OF COUNCILLOR ELECTED
Blunsdon and Highworth	Steve Weisinger
Central	Junab Ali
Chiseldon and Lawn	Brian Peter Mattock
Covingham and Dorcan	Kevin James Parry
Eastcott	Imtiyaz Shaikh
Gorse Hill and Pinehurst	Carol Shelley
Haydon Wick	Garry John Perkins
Liden, Eldene and Park South	Janine Howarth
Lydiard and Freshbrook	Tim Swinyard
Mannington and Western	Jim Robbins
Old Town	Nadine Carol Watts

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks, Direct Dial 01793 463606, sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

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Penhill and Upper Stratton	Claire Crilly
Priory Vale	Emma Louise Faramarzi
Rodbourne Cheney	Peter Watts
Shaw	Mary Martin
St. Andrews	Rahul Tarar
St. Margaret and South Marston	Roger Arthur Smith
Walcot and Park North	Abdul Amin
Wroughton and Wichelstowe	Andy Spry

- 3.2 Further to the request from the Cabinet Office to undertake a Voter ID pilot, Swindon Borough Council delivered a successful Pilot on Thursday 3 May for the Borough and Parish elections.
- 3.3 The Swindon Electoral Team hand delivered a secure poll card to all registered voters to ensure that everyone would have ID to vote whilst also retaining the link to the electoral register. However, the pilot also offered electors the choice to bring one of five 5 nationally issued forms of ID such as passport or photo driving licence, together with the opportunity to be attested at the polling station should the elector have lost or damaged their poll card.
- 3.4 Polling day went smoothly with digital registers all tested at each polling station by 6.40am ready for voting to start at 7am. The voting was monitored for 15 hours from the election office where electoral staff were able to see voter turnout, voter ID choices being used. For the first time electoral staff were able to have a complete view of all 99 polling stations from the election office.
- 3.5 The Pilot was delivered by a working party consisting of Swindon Electoral Team, Swindon Communications Team and Xpress Software Solutions and was an excellent example of collaborative working. The delivery of a robust communication plan resulted in a total of 42,686 electors voting in person in a polling station across Swindon resulting in an increased turnout of 6% on previous comparable local elections.
- 3.6 Initial figures show that of the people who voted in person, only 60 were asked to return to the polling station having not brought their poll card or alternative form of ID. Thirty-five of these were either attested or later returned with the appropriate ID leaving just twenty five eligible electors who did not either return with alternative ID or seek a replacement poll card.
- 3.7 The Council's own exit poll surveys showed that of those who took their poll card, 29% said they carry it anyway, 43% took it because the Council asked them and 28% said it was the easiest to use. The poll card proved to be the most

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successful form of ID with over 93% of electors choosing to use this on the day. 76% of the respondents thought the pilot project was publicised sufficiently. The Cabinet Office and Electoral Commission will now carry out a thorough evaluation and lessons-learned exercise.

- 3.8 Out of an eligible electorate of 158,106 the total number of votes cast was 63,341 giving a turnout of 39.7%. This compares to a turnout of 34.04% in 2016 (the most recent comparable Borough Council elections).
- 3.9 In terms of those who voted by post, as compared to voting in person, 29,294 postal votes were issued of which 19,655 were returned (67.09%).
- 3.10 In summary, the numbers of votes cast and method of voting was as follows:

<u>Method</u>	<u>Ballots cast</u>	<u>% of Turnout</u>
Polling Station Ballots	42,686	33%
Postal Votes	19,655	67%

## 4. **Alternative Options**

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed.

## 5. **Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications as expenses relating to the election of Councillors will be met from existing budgets.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 The election took place in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken into account in compiling this report.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other implications for consideration.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 A Diversity Impact Assessment was not required for the reporting of Councillors elected.

### Risk Management

- 5.5 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

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**6. Consultees**

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

**7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 Return of Councillors Elected.

**8. Appendices**

- 8.1 None.