

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 18 th May 2017
Report Subject	Flintshire County Council Elections 4 th May 2017
Report Author	Chief Executive as the Returning Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report (1) confirms that the local elections were conducted in accordance with elections law, guidance and common practice, and to the performance standards set for Returning Officers and (2) provides the election results and sets out the political composition of the Council for the new term.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the County Council notes the report.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	ELECTIONS MANAGEMENT
1.01	This report reports on the conduct and results of the local elections held on 4 th May. The planning and management of the elections is a major undertaking for the Elections Team. Election management is highly procedural, involves a large volume of work in a short and pressurised timescale, and has to be done with precision and accuracy.
1.02	The 2017 combined County Council and Town and Community Councils elections were managed effectively and to a high standard. The elections were conducted in accordance with elections law, guidance and common practice. The performance standards set for Returning Officers continue to be met in full by Flintshire. Our performance is accredited by the Electoral Commission.
1.03	The Returning Officer and Elections Team have evaluated performance and learning from these elections both for sharing with the Electoral Commission for their national evaluative report and for future elections planning.
1.04	The full results for the County Council elections are listed in Appendix 1. The full set of results for the Town and Community Elections are listed on the Council's website:- http://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/mgElectionResults.aspx?ID=54&RPID=3663355&LLL=0

2.00	RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENTS
2.01	I would like to express my appreciation for the dedication and professionalism of the Elections and Count Management teams and for the co-operation of all involved in the elections process, including the many local organisations who made their premises available as polling stations and Coleg Cambria for the availability of the Count Centre. Also, for the cooperation of most candidates, agents, political parties and campaign activists for following the advice and guidance given.
2.02	The Elections Team and I have evaluated performance and learning from the elections both for sharing with the Electoral Commission for their national evaluative report, and for future elections planning. Flintshire continues to be held in high regard for its elections management conduct and practice.

3.00	ELECTION RESULTS
3.01	The details of the votes cast for each candidate and the outcome of the election for each electoral division are set out in Appendix 1 of the report. The overall turnout for the election was 38.73% of the electorate. 15,514 postal votes were issued and 10,525 returned.

4.00	POLITICAL COMPOSITION														
4.01	<p>The political composition of the Council, according to the affiliations of the elected candidates as disclosed on their nomination papers for the election is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Conservative</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labour</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Liberal Democrat</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plaid Cymru</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	Conservative	6	Green	0	Independent	23	Labour	34	Liberal Democrat	5	Plaid Cymru	0	Other	2
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5.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
5.01	The local elections budget has been built up through a combination of previous Council elections funds and contributions from previous nationally funded elections which we are entitled to retain. A reserve of £138,000 has been built up going into 2017/18. This will be more than sufficient to meet the balance of the cost of these elections to be paid in 2017/18. Town and Community Councils are yet to be recharged for their financial contribution to the management of the election so there will be some replenishment of the reserve. This is a prudent way of funding the local elections at minimum cost exposure to the Council.

6.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
6.01	None.

7.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
7.01	The Returning Officer and Elections Team maintain a Project Plan and Risk Register throughout the planning and implementation stages of the elections. This is reviewed at regular intervals. All risks were managed effectively.

8.00	APPENDICES
8.01	Appendix 1: Flintshire County Council Elections Results.

9.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
9.01	<p>None.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Colin Everett, Chief Executive Telephone: 01352 702101 E-mail: chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

10.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
10.01	Returning Officer: Officer appointed to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of elections.