



Impact of IER Final Report

March 2017

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's constitution provides that the Scrutiny Committee can agree a programme of not more than three scrutiny reviews a year. Such reviews are to be an in depth investigation into a specific service area or policy and carried out by a time limited scrutiny panel that will report back to the Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 This report outlines the findings and recommendations of a scrutiny review set up in November 2016 to examine the trends in registration and the impact of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) in Worcester City
- 1.3 The purpose of the review is to help inform policy development and future decision making by the Council when regarding IER in Worcester City

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Scrutiny review group recommends that Scrutiny Committee consider and endorse the following recommendations:
 - a) The Council continues to fund the Individual Electoral Registration Administrator as the work undertaken by this post is vital to ensuring the register is kept accurate and that under represented groups continue to be engaged with and encouraged to register.
 - b) The IER Administrator engages with all schools and colleges in Worcester to raise awareness and encourage students to register.
 - c) Democracy week is linked more closely with raising awareness about registration with younger people
 - d) The IER Administrator engages with large local employers in Worcester to raise awareness and encourage registrations
 - e) More information about the role of a councillor and why people should get involved in the democratic processes of their local area should be made available on the Council's website and article in 'In the know'
 - f) Registration information or guides to be provided to Cllrs so they use and give out to residents while out and about canvassing and during surgeries.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Great Reform Act of 1832 introduced regulations which established the system of electoral registration. The requirement for householders to supply electoral Registration Officers with relevant information to enable them to create an electoral register for their area dates back to the nineteenth century.
- 3.2 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 provided a legislative framework for the introduction of IER. The Government announced in 2013 that the change from the current system to IER would take place in 2014 and the new system of IER went live in England and Wales on 10 June 2014.

- 3.3 Previously, one person in every household was responsible for registering everyone else who lives at that address. Under IER, each person is now required to register to vote individually, rather than by household.
- 3.4 Under IER you need to provide 'identifying information', such as your date of birth and national insurance number, when applying to register and your application will need to be verified before you are added to the register.
- 3.5 There are several reasons why a review of this area is pertinent:
The new system has been in place now for over a year and within that time period there have been both general and local elections as well as a national referendum. There are currently national debates around democracy, representation and disenfranchised groups.

4 Terms of reference

- 4.1 The purpose of the Panel was to explore:
- The trends in registration.
 - The impact of IER in Worcester City.
 - What does the Council do to encourage registration generally and with under represented groups and what can it do?
- 4.2 The review group must be mindful of the Council's position in promoting democracy and encouraging participation in the democratic process.

The Panel was made up of the following Councillors:

Cllr Matt Lamb, Chair
Cllr Steve McKay
Cllr Stephen Hodgson
Cllr Louis Stephen

5 Methodology

- 5.1 The group will use a range of methods to facilitate a good understanding of the issue and associated impact, through:
- Collection of evidence through desktop studies of previous reports and surveys and consideration of examples of good practice used in other areas.
 - Review of Council data on turnout and registers.
 - Comparison with regional and national data
 - Call for evidence
 - Consider the evidence gathered and draft a final report including proposals for recommendations for Scrutiny Committee to approve and recommend to Cabinet.

6 Research and Call for Evidence

National Context

- 6.1 There were increasing concerns about registration rates towards the end of the twentieth century. The introduction of the poll tax (community charge) in 1990 had meant that local authorities could use the electoral register as the basis for the community charge register. There was considerable opposition to the poll tax and a means to evade it was to disappear from the electoral register by not responding to the annual canvass¹
- 6.2 Following the 1997 general election there were calls for an overhaul of electoral administration generally and for improvements to the level of registration. A Home Office working party (the Howarth Committee) made a number of recommendations, including the introduction of a system of rolling registration. In February 2001 the Representation of the People Regulations (England and Wales) 2001, made under the Representation of the People Act 2000 which implemented the recommendations of the Howarth report, introduced rolling registration.
- 6.3 Before the introduction of IER the registration system was therefore a combination of annual household registration and individual 'rolling' registration (i.e. changes of personal details could be registered during the year on the initiative of the individual elector). There was no central electoral register; registers were compiled and maintained locally by Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). EROs were required to compile registers of electors for their area for Parliamentary and local elections.
- 6.4 In England, Scotland and Wales an annual canvass form was sent to each household by the local council between September and November. The householder (or a named person) was required to complete and return the form on their own behalf and on behalf of anyone else who lived in the household and who was eligible to vote. The completed form had to contain details of those resident and eligible to vote on a prescribed date, 15 October. Since February 2001 the introduction of a rolling register provided a voluntary means by which an individual could amend his or her registration details. To do this an individual needed to complete an application form and return it to their Electoral Registration Officer.

IER

- 6.5 In 2014 the 'household registration' system was replaced to give each individual control over their own registration – the new system was called Individual Electoral Registration (IER). These changes were brought about with an aim to modernise and improve the electoral registration system, creating one which has better protection against electoral fraud and is more convenient for eligible citizens to register to vote.
- 6.6 IER means individuals make an application to register individually and provide personal identifiers, being date of birth and National Insurance Number.

¹ <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06764/SN06764.pdf>

- 6.7 The key aim of the Government both during transition to IER and on an on-going basis was and is for Councils to ensure their registers were and are as complete and accurate as possible and that levels of completeness and accuracy did and do not decline under IER.
- 6.8 The Government also identified the following aims of IER:
- To increase public trust in the system;
 - To encourage people to take individual responsibility for their own votes;
 - To introduce more convenient channels for registration; and
 - To reduce the risk and perception of electoral fraud, while maximising completeness and accuracy.
- 6.9 Its aim is to put electors first and to increase public trust in elections. It involved moving over 46 million people spread across over 380 local authorities to a new system of IER over a four year period.
- 6.10 The government have supported the transition by funding research² to ensure promotion and education campaigns target groups that are less likely to be registered. They have funded programmes to encourage overseas voters and Armed Forces personnel to register and student organisations, including the NUS, to promote voter registration. They have also provided funding to local authorities to enable them to resource the transition³.

Local Context

- 6.11 Worcester City has, like all other authorities, been working on transitioning to the new IER system. To facilitate the transition to IER in March 2013 a project team was established reporting to the Strategic Programme Board with the Project Sponsor being the then Managing Director, Duncan Sharkey and the project Manager Democratic Services Manager, Claire Chaplin. The project team comprised representatives from Democratic and Electoral Services, Strategy and Transformation, Communications, ICT and Finance Services.
- 6.12 Government awarded grants to Councils to support the introduction of IER and additional employee resources were recruited to carry out the IER processes as dictated by the legislation governing IER.
- 6.13 Following the first Individual Registration Canvass which commenced in July 2015, the transition to IER ended on 1st December 2015, this being the publication date of the first Individual Electoral Register. Since this date the delivery of IER has now become business as usual.
- 6.14 As a result of the partnership, communication and engagement plans and strategies put in place, the Service ensured that of the properties canvassed in 2015, as at 1st December 2015, 88.11% of individuals eligible to vote at those properties were registered.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-to-encourage-under-registered-groups-to-register-to-vote>

³ <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06764/SN06764.pdf>

6.15 Work continues to target non-responding residents who are actively encouraged and supported to register. Since the publication date of the first Individual Electoral Register the Service has achieved a further 5% increase in completeness (as of February 2016).

7 Call for Evidence

7.1 The review group were keen to understand the three key lines of enquiry established as part of the terms of reference

- The trends in registration.
- The impact of IER in Worcester City.
- What does the council do to encourage registration generally and with under represented groups and what can it do?

7.2 The group agreed to meet with the Electoral Services Officer and the Head of Democratic Services. Both officers have been working on IER for a number of years and were able to provide both local and regional evidence. The group reviewed existing information with regards to the change to IER, including statistical data from the elections team at the City Council, the Council's IER Public Engagement Strategy, electoral Commission data and reports and research from the Cabinet office. Below is a summary of the evidence reviewed.

The trends in registration and impact on Worcester City

7.3 Figure 1 below shows the number of people on the electoral register for Worcester City since 2013 and any % increase or decrease:

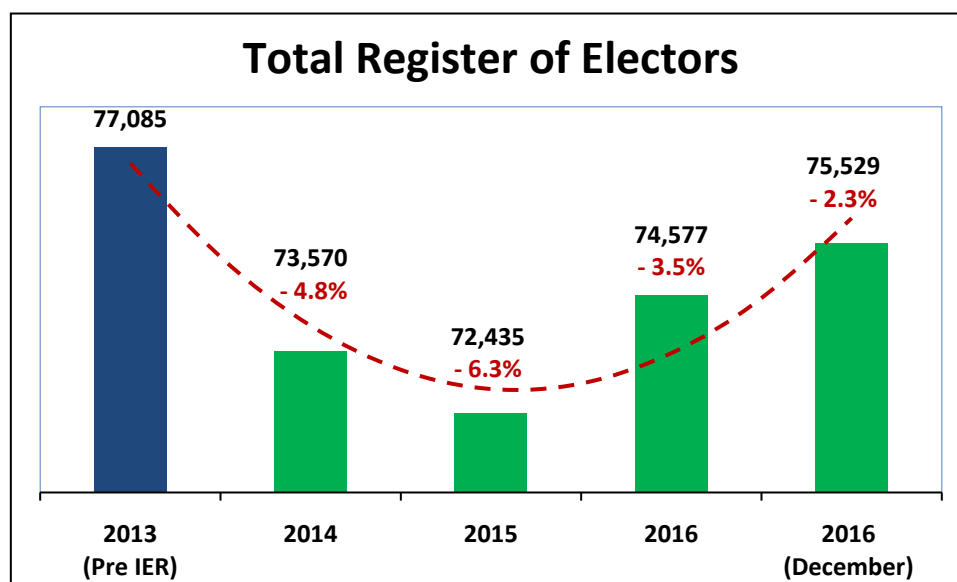


Figure 1

7.4 The total number of registered electors has decreased from 77,085 in 2013 to 72,435 in 2015. However, as of May 2016 this figure stood at 74,577 and by 1st December 2016 it had risen to 75,529, showing clear evidence of some recovery of registration since the introduction of IER, as shown in figure 1.

7.5 IER was introduced in 2014 and the first annual canvass was completed in December 2015. It is clear that the impact of IER caused a decrease in numbers on the register for a short time (6% - 4,650 voters). It should be noted that the decrease in numbers is primarily due to the fact students were under the old system of registration were automatically registered. The IER system requires students to register individually in order for them to be included on the Register.

7.6 Table 1 below shows a breakdown of the register of electors by ward. All wards suffered a decrease in the number of electors following the implementation of IER. By 2016 a small number of wards (St John, St Stephen and Warndon Parish South) had seen an increase in the number of electors eligible to vote.

Register of Electors by Ward

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Arboretum	4908	4481 (- 8.7%)	4393 (- 10.5%)	4471 (- 9.1%)
Battenhall	4254	4050 (- 4.8%)	3988 (- 6.3%)	4017 (- 5.6%)
Bedwardine	6579	6450 (- 2%)	6410 (- 2.6%)	6547(- 0.5%)
Cathedral	7916	7475 (- 5.6%)	7379 (- 6.8%)	7616 (- 3.8%)
Claines	6651	6575 (- 1.1%)	6457 (- 2.9%)	6534 (- 1.8%)
Gorse Hill	3903	3627 (- 7.1%)	3587 (- 8.1%)	3655 (- 6.4%)
Nunnery	6130	6111 (- 0.3%)	5811 (- 5.2%)	5916 (- 3.5%)
Rainbow Hill	4289	4147 (- 3.3%)	3995 (- 6.9%)	4038 (- 5.9%)
St Clement	4936	3935 (- 20.3%)	4006 (- 18.8%)	4228 (- 14.3%)
St John	6004	5822 (- 3%)	5938 (- 1.1%)	6040 (+ 0.6%)
St Peters Parish	4707	4531(- 3.7%)	4466 (- 5.1%)	4479 (- 4.8%)
St Stephen	4138	4118 (- 0.5%)	4121 (- 0.4%)	4206 (+ 1.6%)
Warndon	4261	3974 (- 6.7%)	3834 (- 10%)	3901 (- 8.4%)
Warndon Parish North	4270	4189 (- 1.9%)	4065 (- 4.8%)	4077 (- 4.5%)
Warndon Parish South	4139	4085 (- 1.3%)	3985 (- 3.7%)	4260 (+ 2.9%)

Table 1

7.7 Figure 2 outlines the total register of electors' figures against the turnout in elections in Worcester City. Although there has been a small decrease in the number of registered electors since IER, it seems that this has not affected turnout in elections. Turnout in local elections tends to be higher when held on the same day as a general election (green bar 2015). The number of registered electors also increased in 2016 ahead of the EU referendum in June, (purple bar 2016) further trend analysis of the numbers of registered electors will confirm whether this was related to the recovery in numbers.

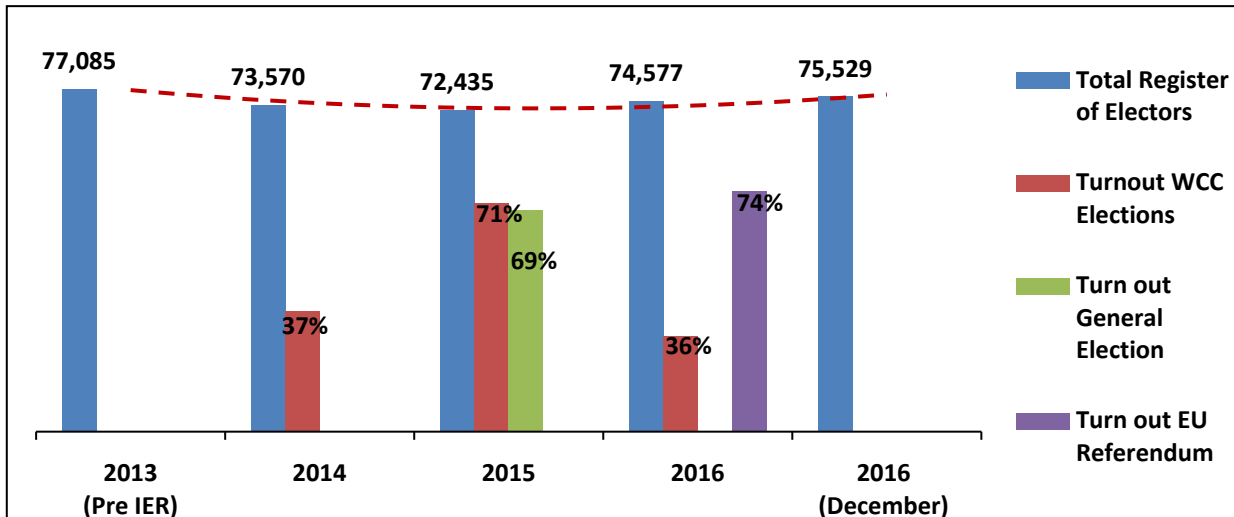


Figure 2

Quality of registers

7.8 A key aim of IER was to improve the quality of registers. The quality of electoral registers across the county is monitored by the Electoral Commission and they assess how this quality changes in response to legislative developments, administrative and population changes. The quality of the register is measured by:

- Accuracy refers to the percentage of register entries that correctly refer to people who are eligible to be registered and are residents at the address the entry refers to.
- Completeness refers to the percentage of eligible people registered at their current address.

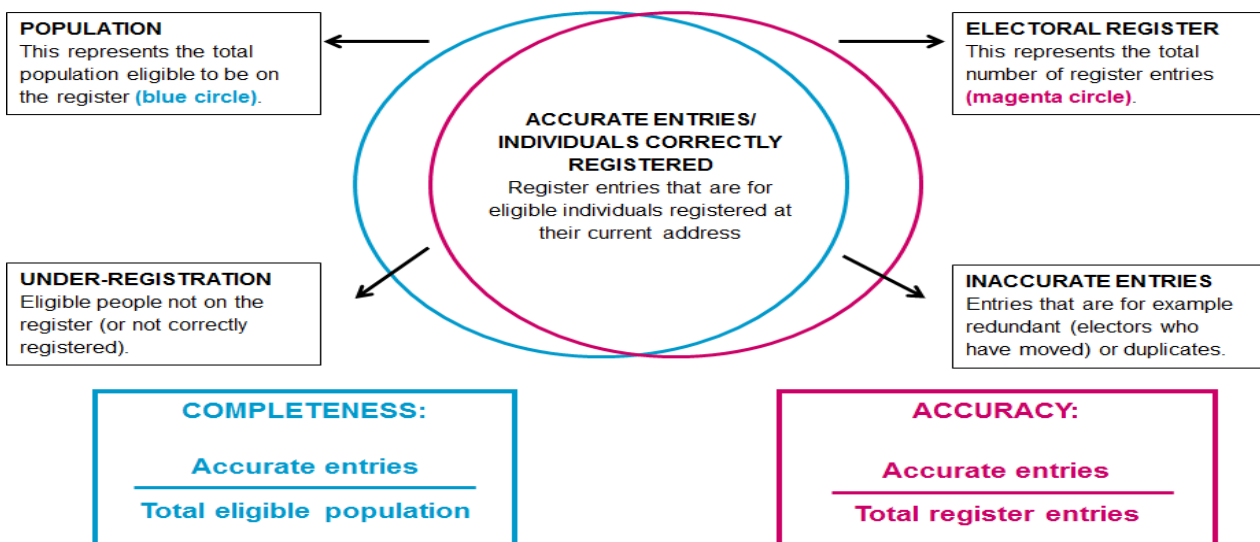


Figure 3¹

7.9 In February 2016 the Electoral Commission published a report on the electoral registers in Great Britain as printed on 1st December 2015. The Electoral Commission undertook a house-to-house survey, to check against the

December 2015 registers. Data indicated that overall the local government registers were 91% accurate and 84% complete.

Worcester

- 7.10 Worcester City Council's Electoral Services Team have been working hard since 2013 to ensure the transition to IER is smooth, to mitigate any decrease in the number of registered electors and ensure the register is as accurate and complete as possible.
- 7.11 2013 the Worcester City Register of Electors was 92.15% complete. 2014 pre IER the Register of Electors was 92.54% complete. These figures include the aforementioned automatically registered students who remained on the register.
- 7.12 When IER was introduced the Worcester City Register of Electors was 88.11% accurate compared to 85.10% in Wyre Forest, 83.90% in Herefordshire, and 86.85% in Shropshire.
- 7.13 In November 2016 following the annual canvass the Register of Electors was 91% complete. The Electoral Services Team then carried out a local data matching exercise on non-responding properties with Council Tax records to increase the completeness percentage to between 97-98%. This figure compares favourably with our West Mercia Regional colleagues.

What does the council do to encourage registration generally and with under represented groups and what can it do?

- 7.14 Worcester has a population of just over 100,000 people and a specific demographic profile which affects the numbers of registered voters. Many people are not eligible to register to vote due to age, nationality or if they are a convicted prisoner, therefore not all of Worcester's population is eligible to vote.
- 7.15 In order to look at trends in registration we need to consider: the impact of the introduction of IER, eligibility to register and the issues which affect whether people are likely to register or not.
- 7.16 There may be several reasons to explain a decrease in numbers on the register. One might be that Worcester has a large number of students. Students as a group are identified as less likely to register generally due to their age and that they usually move accommodation frequently. IER also prevents universities from block registering all their students in halls of residence, so students have to register themselves individually. Worcester's specific demographic profile according to the Census and the Electoral Commission is described as
- A large student population in 2 wards (Cathedral and St Clement),
 - A number of wards with significant numbers of residents whose first language is not English,
 - Low levels of internet access in certain wards
 - Large private rented sector in certain wards/across the local authority
 - Large area of residential care homes in certain wards/across the local authority

7.17 From previous Electoral Commission research, the Cabinet Office identified a number of demographic groups who are less likely to be registered to vote. Research has shown that the introduction of IER has the potential to exacerbate levels of under-registration amongst certain groups which are less likely to register.

These are:

- Young people (aged 17-24, not students)
- Students (aged 17-24)
- BME groups (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black African, Black Caribbean, Gypsy Traveller)
- EU nationals (excluding the UK)
- Commonwealth citizens
- People with learning disabilities and low levels of literacy
- People with physical disabilities
- Residents in Homes of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) (such as student halls, care homes, hostels)
- Recent home movers
- People living in the private rented sector and/or shared households

7.18 They also identified some barriers to registration and IER. These may affect whether someone registers to vote, whether they are part of the above identified groups above or not:

- **Motivation** to register is closely linked with motivation to vote and this is linked to awareness and understanding of the registration process/politics.
- **Lack of resonance:** lack of motivation to vote and register is often driven by lack of resonance. Many people don't engage with voting or registering to vote. They may not feel they know enough about politics and voting in general.

- **Other interests:** Participants who were not born in the UK may have a greater interest in the politics of their home country and are less interested in registration or voting in the UK.

- **Cynicism:** there may be ideological and attitudinal barriers to voting and some may make a conscious decision not to vote or register to vote.

Some may have a distrust of government feeling excluded from society, may query government use of personal information.

- **Accessibility:** there may be issues with language; and confidence in completing forms etc.
- **Lack of awareness:** unaware of the need to register to vote or how the registration process works.

7.19 The research identified several different types of people who may or may not be likely to register or be impacted by IER.

Types	Typology	Barrier	Solution
<i>Engaged unaware</i>	<i>Young people Commonwealth citizens EU Citizens</i>	<i>Knowledge based, Lack of awareness, motivation</i>	<i>Awareness raising and engagement</i>
<i>Frustrated cynics</i>	<i>Young people UK-born ethnic minorities</i>	<i>Attitudinal and ideological</i>	<i>Unlikely to influence</i>
<i>Apathetic disengaged</i>	<i>Young people, all ethnicities Not UK-born</i>	<i>Attitudinal and knowledge based</i>	<i>Unlikely to influence</i>
<i>Voters</i>	<i>Over-25s</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None required</i>
<i>Deliberate non- voters</i>	<i>Over 25s Commonwealth citizens EU citizens</i>	<i>Entrenched attitudinal and ideological</i>	<i>Unlikely to influence</i>
<i>Vulnerable</i>	<i>English as a second language Learning difficulties Recent arrivals to the UK</i>	<i>Practical (accessibility, lack of awareness)</i>	<i>Awareness raising and engagement</i>

Table2

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/62636/URG_Research_Report_25_07_12.pdf

7.20 The group recognised there are many reasons why people don't register to vote and not all of these issues will be addressed or impacted upon by IER or the work the Council does to encourage registration.

7.21 The group were keen to explore how Councillors can support promoting and raising awareness of registration and the benefits. Members of the group felt it was a major role of councillors to attempt to address apathy, cynicism and lack of engagement which all play a large part in potential voters failing to engage with the democratic system. Councillors are out in the community working and engaging with residents and young people regularly. The group felt that the role of councillors was under utilised and could be put to good use. It was at no extra cost to the council and could add value to the other work being done by the IER officer.

Worcester City Council

7.22 As part of the transition to IER, local authorities were tasked with assessing their own demographics and planning a targeted approach to encourage and promote registration to groups that were less likely to register. As previously mentioned in terms of Worcester City demographics there is a large student population, private rented and HMO's are prevalent and there are significant numbers of residents whose first language is not English.

7.23 The Electoral Registration Officer has a general duty to promote participation in the electoral process in the area. Maximising the number of voters registered relies on an effective local public engagement strategy with robust processes behind it.

7.24 As part of this public engagement strategy, the Electoral Services Officer and the IER Administrator have used a number of methods to engage with these groups:

Local priorities - geographical and target groups	Priority	Notes on action points
<i>E.g. Large student population in 2 wards</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Using student union contacts to get emails out to the students encouraging them to register on line when they receive their ITRs.</i>
<i>Large number of second homes</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Check Council Tax internally for second homes</i>
<i>Number of wards with significant numbers of residents whose first language is not English</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Need to ensure alternative languages and support through community structures</i>
<i>Low levels of internet access in certain wards</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Need to ensure paper forms are responded to</i>
<i>Large private rented sector in certain wards/across the local authority</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Try to get information at the door knocking stage and then our IER Administrator will go round these areas. Students are a lot of our renters -use our contacts at the Students Union</i>
<i>Large area of residential care homes in certain wards/across the local authority</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>IER Administrator goes to all Care Homes and make personal contact with the residents and staff</i>

7.25 The Service has implemented a public engagement strategy with the aim of supporting and encouraging registration. They used direct contact, community representatives, partners, media and advertising to help promote IER, raise awareness to priority groups and the general public. A number of the activities to date have included:

7.26 A poster campaign targeted at Estate and Letting Agents, Veterinarians, Doctors and Dentists Surgeries, The Hive (customer contact centre), Libraries and Community Centres.

- Advertising on the rear of car park tickets.
- Article in Worcestershire Royal Hospital leaflet.

- Regular articles in the Council's publications of In the Know and City Life.
- Support, guidance and personal visits to specific groups within the community including: YMCA, St Pauls Hostel, New College, Worcester (for blind and visually impaired students), University of Worcester and Sixth Form College.

7.27 The Service has established a partnership with the Students Union to encourage registration and heighten awareness amongst young voters.

7.28 Working closely with care homes, YMCA, Students Union and St Pauls Hostel has proved successful. They also work hard to ensure there is a social media presence and the website is informative. The Council have also tried using a pop-up registration point in the City and at the university to encourage people to learn more about the process face to face. All poll cards are hand delivered to registered electors. For the first time a card was delivered to every empty property inviting new residents to register before the elections to ensure house movers were aware. All new property information from Street Naming and Numbering services is received and added to the register and an Household Enquiry Form is sent to ensure all new house buyers are made aware of IER processes.

7.29 Each local authority area will have its own specific demographic profile which will impact upon the engagement strategy the council undertakes. It must also be made clear that the Council works to promote participation in the democratic process by encouraging registration and not actual voting.

7.30 The Review Group were pleased to learn about all the different methods being systematically utilised to engage and encourage different groups to register. The group thought that it was important that awareness was also raised with younger people earlier on in their education not just when they were about to reach voting age. This ensures young people start their civic education early and are made aware of the importance of registration and its benefits.

7.31 Group Members thought that using democracy week to promote registration would be a good start and could get more young people interested and have a greater insight into the democratic process at a local level. Members also felt that engaging with all schools and colleges would be a useful approach.

Future of IER

7.32 The Council's ERO has a duty to maintain a register encompassing:

- parliamentary electors
- local government electors,
- relevant citizens of the European Union entitled to vote at European Parliamentary elections
- of persons living outside the UK who have made a declaration to vote at European Parliamentary Elections.

- 7.33 The ERO has a duty under Section 9A of the Representation People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) to take all necessary steps to comply with the duty to maintain the electoral register, and to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that all those eligible and no others are registered in it. The duties apply throughout the year and not just during the canvass period.
- 7.34 The Electoral Commission states that the local authority that appointed the ERO must, by law, provide the resources that the ERO needs to discharge his/her statutory function. These functions include the duties as stated above and set out in legislation.
- 7.35 The transition to IER has taken a number of years and also impacted on the Council in terms of resources and funding. It is clear that the introduction of IER has led to significant changes in many systems and procedures, and that the introduction of several new procedures has been necessary to comply with the Government's overriding aim of IER and the legislative framework.
- 7.36 These are permanent changes to the registration service as the Government's view is that IER has brought about improvements to the completeness and accuracy of electoral registers.
- 7.37 The Government provided funds for the transition to IER but the new process is more labour intensive and there are additional duties required in delivering IER.

<i>IER Grant Awarded to Worcester City Council</i>	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount</i>
2013/14	£9,610 plus £10,053 for capital hardware costs
2014/15	£47,170
2015/16	£36,940
2016/17	£51,938

- 7.38 The funding received is to cover the additional costs of IER including IER write out, verification exceptions process, new duties outside the canvass period, and cost of confirmation process and change management. The Cabinet Office in its briefing on 31st March 2016 announced that it had agreed, in principle, a finance package for IER with Her Majesty's Treasury for the next four years. If after this time there is no funding and spend on IER continues at its current rate, there would be insufficient funds to cover the costs with-in the existing budget. It should also be noted that at the time of this report the amount of funding to be received for 2017/18 is unknown
- 7.39 The Cabinet Office is working with suppliers and administrators to identify potential ways to make improvements to the IER processes and to make it more efficient. However these changes will take time to be agreed and then implemented.
- 7.40 The Review Group were concerned about the decrease in the number of registered electors since 2014 but were impressed with the work being done by the elections team to rectify this issue and their efforts to work with those under represented groups to promote and encourage participation in the

democratic process. They were concerned that a decrease or stop to funding may affect further progress being made.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 IER's introduction in 2014 has resulted in a decrease in registered electors in Worcester City. The register decreased year on year 2013-2015 but this trend is now recovering due to the action of the council.
- 8.2 In December 2016 the Register of Electors was 97-98% complete. This compares favourably with our West Mercia Regional colleagues. It could be argued that recent political issues such as the EU referendum have helped to boost registrations, as it was a highly publicised national campaign on a single issue.
- 8.3 There are several issues which effect people registering to vote which are outside the influence of the Council. There are groups identified as less or more likely to vote such as age; the younger the less likely and the older more likely. Issues such as property tenure and nationality can also be influential factors. Research has identified groups such as those who are deliberate non voters, frustrated cynics and disengaged apathetic who are unlikely to be influenced by much of the work of the Council through the public engagement strategy. However, there will be many from others who have and will be impacted by the engagement work of the Council and encouraged to participate. The Review Group consider that the continuation and expansion of these engagement activities, particularly regarding young people would assist in maintaining or improving registration rates in the City.
- 8.4 The Council has a dedicated officer who has supported improved accuracy and outreach work with under represented groups through a public engagement strategy which addresses the specific issues that relate to Worcester City registered electors such as students and those in the private rented sector. The Council have targeted empty homes and are always trying to diversify the approach to inform people about registering. The IER officer has proved to be particularly important and effective.
- 8.5 The Government have previously provided grant funding to support IER activities and costs in local authorities such as the dedicated officer at the City Council but there is no indication that this funding will continue long term. This could potentially impact on the number of registered electors and the completeness of the register. Therefore, if the money provided by central government for IER ceases it is vital for the council to provide funding to cover the shortfall as part of its broader democratic duties.
- 8.6 Throughout the review the group reflected on the ways in which councillors themselves can support the work of the council to promote registration.

Councillors play a role not only in boosting turnout and encouraging their own supporters to vote, but the group felt that they also have a wider democratic duty to ensure that all voters are registered and felt they have a role to play while canvassing and while holding surgeries to encourage people to register.

Wards: All
Contact Officer: Gemma Poxon, Transformation Manager
01905 722050 – gemma.poxon@worcester.gov.uk
Background Papers: Scoping Report – 31st August 2016
