

## **Actions from Overview & Scrutiny Board meeting 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

### **Individual Electoral Registration:**

*Could Government grants based on population could be affected?*

Grants based on population are based on ONS population figures, not electorates. There is no link between the Electoral Register and the ONS population figures.

*How many electors are likely to be removed for not responding to the invitation to register?*

Any estimate about removals for non-response by 2015 should be treated with caution at this stage. We will have more confidence about likely numbers once we have sent invitations to register and seen the reaction and response rates to them later in the year. December 2014 seems a sensible time to look at this again.

That aside, an initial estimate is that around 1500 electors could potentially be removed from the register in December 2015. (With a proportion of these likely to re-register once they get the final letter telling them they have been removed from the list)

This estimate is based on two assumptions:

1. The estimate of the number of electors who are likely to be invited to register is correct – i.e. 20000 as set out in the report to OSB.
2. That the response rate will broadly follow that of the response rate to rolling registration forms sent to new residents of the borough under the current rolling registration program\*

There are some factors that may increase or depress the response rate to the invitations that it is not yet possible to quantify –

- Under IER, electors will be required to give more personal information to the ERO than they currently do. This includes providing a date of birth and National Insurance number on a registration form. This could depress the response rate and lead to more removals, or it may not prove to be a serious issue – we simply will not know until we see the first responses.
- Conversely, electors who will get an “invitation” to register are people who are currently registered to vote. A fairly substantial proportion of them will previously have completed a registration form for either themselves or for their entire household. In other words there are likely to be proportionately more “good citizens” within this group who will respond positively to requests to provide information.

\*The Electoral Registration Officer currently sends voter registration forms to individual new residents under the current rolling registration programme. These normally receive a response rate of approximately 92% within one year of the initial form being sent. (And after all the usual reminder stages).