

	<b>Community Leadership Committee</b>  <b>8 March 2017</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Member's Item – Electoral Registration for General Election 2017 – Councillor Barry Rawlings</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Maria Lugangira – Governance <a href="mailto:maria.lugangira@barnet.gov.uk">maria.lugangira@barnet.gov.uk</a> , 020 8359 2761

## Summary

The report provides detail on the Member's Items submitted for the General Functions Committee to consider and for instructions to be provided to Officers.

## Recommendations

**That the General Functions Committee's instructions are requested in relation to the item submitted by a member of the Committee highlighted at section 1.1.**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 Councillor Barry Rawlings has requested that a Member's Item be considered on the following matter:

### **Electoral Registration for General Election 2017**

Councillors from across political parties will be aware of a number of complaints from residents who applied online to go on the electoral register by the deadline for the General Election 2017, received a confirmation email acknowledging receipt of their application but then received no further contact from the Council. On failing to receive a polling card some have contacted the Council to be informed that they needed to supply verification evidence to complete their application – but they received no email or other written request to provide any verification evidence.

Some of these residents had their registration resolved through contacting the Council and were able to vote, others did not.

A number of these residents applied many weeks before the deadline, and despite contacting the Council were not able to resolve their application through the verification process.

While the number of residents who contacted councillors and political parties about this issue may seem relatively small, any individual deprived of their right to vote should be unacceptable to the Council.

Having seen the details of some of the complaints I am concerned that there has been a system error in the verification process – whether IT error, human process error or both – and that this may mean many more people were affected than the small number of cases I have been made aware of.

I request that the General Functions Committee is advised in the first instance how many people registered online before the deadline but were not verified.

I also request that this issue is addressed in detail as part of the General Election review report that will come to a future meeting of General Functions.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The options available to the Committee are to;
- i. Instruct an officer to prepare a report for a future meeting of the Committee on the issue(s) raised with a recommended course of action, or

- ii. Take no action

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

##### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

##### **5.3 Social Value**

- 5.3.1 None in the context of this report.

##### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.4.1 The Council's Constitution (Meeting Procedure Rules, Section 6) states that a Member, including appointed substitute Members of a Committee may have one item only on an agenda that he/she serves. Members' items must be within the term of reference of the decision making body which will consider the item.

##### **5.5 Risk Management**

- 5.5.1 None in the context of this report.

##### **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.6.1 Members' Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

##### **5.7 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.7.1 None in the context of this report.

##### **5.8 Insight**

- 5.8.1 None in the context of this report.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **6.1 Email to Governance Service.**