

ANNUAL CANVASS OF ELECTORS 2020

The Annual Canvass of Electors is changing.....

Why?

- (1) To make the process simpler for electors (especially if there are no changes to the details we already hold)
- (2) To encourage electors to “channel-shift” from paper to technology so only internet, phone or email response options will be listed as a means of responding on some communications. Previously, as a response was required, we had to include a business reply envelope with all stages of the canvass so electors could post the completed form back to us (which was costly), now we don’t.
- (3) To help cut Council costs - running an annual canvass is still the best way to capture changes to the register ready for publication in December but the new method will allow resources (both staffing and funding) to be targeted where needed (e.g. where changes to elector details need to be made). Printing and postage costs should also be reduced.

All properties will be sent an envelope addressed to “The Residents” at the end of this week. National data matching with DWP records and local data matching with other Council records has been done and properties have been assigned as either “matched” or “not matched”. Data matching is fully automated so we only know the outcome, not how the result is achieved.

Around 85% of properties in the District are “matched” properties. They will be sent an envelope with the additional wording:

“You must respond if there is a change to report”.

The form inside will be printed on **WHITE** paper. These households **DO NOT** need to respond if all the details are correct. This is quite different from previous canvasses where all properties had to respond even if the details on the form were correct. The message to these properties is:

**NO CHANGES TO THE DETAILS
NO RESPONSE NEEDED**

“Not matched” households (the remaining 15%) will be sent an envelope with the additional wording:

“Legally you need to respond to this letter”.

The form inside will be printed on **YELLOW** paper. Electors must do as instructed whether there are changes to the details or not. If they don’t respond, we must send a reminder and, if no response to that, a further follow up contact which will be by phone or email where possible.

Electors are encouraged to respond, where they need to, by using the internet to confirm details or log any changes to their details but if they don’t have internet access, there will be a phone number or email address for responses.

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