

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 September 2010</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Combined Parliamentary and Local Elections May 2010</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>

### 5. Summary

This report is intended to provide an accurate account and assessment of how the combined parliamentary and local elections in May, 2010 were conducted in Rotherham. It will include key aspects of the process from the planning stage through to the counting of votes and will draw on direct experience of the electoral services team and feedback from other stakeholders including voters, candidates, agents and polling staff.

### 6. Recommendations

**That the report, which was requested by the Panel, be noted.**

## 7. Details - Conduct of the Election

### 7.1 Planning for the Election

We continue to deliver elections within an increasingly complex and challenging environment. Rapid and continuing legislative change, the high percentage (25%) of voters choosing to vote by post and the trend for the combination of polls increase the complexity of the election for everyone involved, not least the voters who should always be at the heart of the electoral process. There were around 25 separate pieces of primary and secondary legislation (some of which have been amended on several occasions) governing the administration of these elections.

**“The complexity of election law is exacerbated when elections are held on the same day, and where polls are combined, particularly where the rules and timetables for the elections are not compatible”<sup>1</sup>**

The uncertainty around the date of the parliamentary election affected the planning processes for the local elections. Whilst it was known that the parliamentary election must be held by 3 June, it could have been called any time before that and at very short notice. The parliamentary election time-table is only 17 working days from the date of dissolution of parliament and with today’s complex elections; preparations cannot wait for the announcement of the date. It was therefore necessary to consider all the options and produce detailed provisional plans (but without entering into any actual spending commitments) for the following four different scenarios each with its own challenges:

- A snap autumn 2009 parliamentary election (during the electoral registration canvass)
- A snap spring 2010 parliamentary election (possible conflict with local election preparations)
- A combined parliamentary/local election in May 2010
- A stand-alone parliamentary election on 3 June 2010

In each scenario, the complexity was further increased by the requirement for “cross boundary” working with Barnsley MBC for the new Wentworth and Dearne Constituency which now includes the two Barnsley electoral wards of Dearne North and Dearne South. A particular concern was the requirement for the personal identifiers of any postal voters to be verified by software used in Rotherham when they had been originally captured by the different system in use in Barnsley. This was a national issue and software developers were working on compatibility fixes throughout the autumn of 2009 and spring of 2010. The Electoral Services team in Rotherham devoted significant time and resource to thorough pre-testing so as to minimise the risk of failure at the election. The Electoral Services teams in both authorities worked co-operatively throughout the planning and operational stages of the election to minimise the difficulties.

---

<sup>1</sup> Beyond 2010: the future of electoral administration in the UK – Association of Electoral Administrators

Planning for elections continues throughout the year starting with the review of the most recent election and ensuring any lessons learned are implemented. The performance of contractors is analysed and any necessary improvements agreed, the design and content of all election documents must be agreed and print and despatch schedules negotiated. Venues for training, postal vote opening, polling and counting must be confirmed very much in advance of the election and staffing requirements must be reviewed and recruitment processes put in place.

The electoral register is fundamental and the Electoral Services team is concerned to ensure its accuracy and completeness. Efforts to encourage eligible citizens to register are not confined to the annual canvass but continue throughout the year. Ensuring that the register is properly maintained all year round is key to the successful delivery of elections. Because of a by-election for Anston Parish Council on 3 December 2009, we were required in law to publish the fully revised register on 18 November instead of the usual date of 1 December. Additional consideration therefore was given to what actions would be necessary to ensure that the completeness of the register was not compromised by the early publication date.

## **7.2 The Nomination Process**

The nomination period for local candidates opened on 30 March and closed on 8 April. The PM announced on 6 April that the Parliamentary election would be called for 6 May and combined with the local election. The nomination period for parliamentary candidates therefore opened on 14 April and closed on 20 April.

This was a very busy time and the Electoral Services team dealt with 92 nominations from candidates for the local election and 16 nominations for the parliamentary elections. Minority party and independent candidate involvement increased at both election types.

Between 30 March and 20 April, the Electoral Services team of 6 officers dealt with 108 nomination appointments including checking the papers and advising on queries. In the same period the team dealt with more than 2300 telephone enquiries.

A survey of all candidates resulted in 27 responses – feedback on the nomination process was positive in every case.

## **7.3 Communications with Candidates - Briefings and Guidance**

A briefing was held for local candidates and agents on 14 April at 18:30 and for parliamentary candidates and agents on 21 April at 18:00. Candidates were briefed on the plans for the conduct of the election including the effect of the combination of polls. Arrangements for the verification and counting of votes were covered in some detail and the requirement for increased security was explained. Candidates were informed that access and movement at the count would have to be strictly controlled.

The briefings were conducted by Martin Kimber (Chief Executive and Returning Officer) and Mags Evers (Electoral Services Manager). Tim Mumford (Assistant Chief Executive, Legal & Democratic Services) was in attendance and South

Yorkshire Police were represented by officers from the Operational Planning Unit and the Economic Crime Unit (which handles electoral offences).

Written communications including specific guidance was issued to all candidates and their agents at the relevant times (eg: with nomination packs and following the deadline for withdrawals). These communications were intended to cover all aspects of the election and included everything covered in the candidate briefing sessions so that those unable to attend the briefing still received the information.

The responses from the candidate feedback was overwhelmingly positive although one local candidate thought the briefing a “little long-winded”.

#### 7.4 Voter Registration

Early publication of the revised register following the autumn 2009 canvass as described at 7.1 was a matter of some concern to the Electoral Services team. To allow households every opportunity to respond, door to door canvassing continued after the publication date to allow for inclusion of late responders in the monthly update in January 2010.

The table below illustrates the figures at 18 November and the effect of the continued efforts by 1 January Notice of Alteration.

Total Number of properties canvassed = 111,832		
Response Rates:	By 18 Nov Publication	By 1 Jan Notice
Number of responses	94066	100459
% Response	84	90
Total Electorate	191,332	193,517

Of course, attempts to encourage citizens to register are not confined to the annual canvass period and in Rotherham, we are active throughout the year to make the most of the opportunities offered by “rolling registration” to maintain an accurate and up to date register. The table below sets out statistics of the resulting changes each month to the electoral register.

<b>“Rolling Electoral Registration” Statistics for Monthly Notices of Alteration 2010</b>					
<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>ADDED</u></b>	<b><u>REMOVED</u></b>	<b><u>CHANGE TO DETAILS</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL ELECTORATE</u></b>
01.01.10	3634	1375	1316	6325	193,517
01.02.10	313	162	18	493	193,750
01.03.10	368	408	25	801	193,709
01.04.10	1042	638	32	1712	194,110
28.04.10	1367	952	70	2389	194,534
01.06.10	324	318	13	655	194,554
01.07.10	352	393	22	767	194,513
01.08.10	403	492	15	910	194,425
01.09.10	400	1154	12	1566	193,671

	8203	5892	1523	
--	------	------	------	--

Since 2007 there has been a facility to allow voters to register up to 11 working days before polling day. This is also the deadline for receipt of applications to vote by post or to cancel or change any existing postal or proxy vote. For the elections in May 2010 the date was Tuesday 20 April (otherwise known as “Super Tuesday”). The conflicts between the local election and parliamentary election timetable meant that this was also the deadline for close of Parliamentary nominations and withdrawals. This was a real “pinch point” in the timetable and required a tremendous effort to ensure that

- all parliamentary candidate details were accurately captured, carefully checked and extracted in data files for the print contractor who needed them to prepare parliamentary ballot papers
- postal vote applications from parliamentary voters living in the Dearne North and Dearne South Wards of Barnsley MBC were processed and data files transferred to Rotherham for checking and including with our data files to print contractors
- all processing of registration and postal vote applications was completed accurately to allow a data file of postal voters at each election to be produced and carefully checked and transferred to the print contractor so that postal packs could be produced
- the data files would be used to provide proofs of ballot papers and postal vote packs for immediate approval to allow the printer to begin work overnight

At the deadline on 20 April there were:

208,996 voters eligible to vote at the parliamentary elections – including 52,608 who had chosen to vote by post<sup>2</sup>

193, 307 voters eligible to vote at the local elections – including 49,861 who had chosen to vote by post.

To avoid any delays, the electoral services team continued working until the printers had been able to process all the data files so that they could be verified and all proofs signed off on the same day. Final sign off was at 9:45pm on 20 April.

## **7.5 Printing and Postal Ballot Preparation and Despatch**

All printing work was undertaken by Adare. This included poll cards, postal ballot packs, ballot papers and corresponding number lists. As described at 7.1, time spent on pre-planning and negotiation was significant but invaluable.

Poll cards and postal votes were all despatched on the pre-agreed dates. Electoral Services Officers were on site on the date of despatch of postal votes to carry out QA checks, confirm numbers and personally supervise the handover to Royal Mail

A post election ‘lessons learned’ meeting has taken place with Adare and planning for 2011 election is already beginning.

---

<sup>2</sup> These figures include parliamentary electors in Dearne North & Dearne South wards of Barnsley MBC

## **7.6 Postal Ballot Opening and Personal Identifier Verification Process**

Available venues for postal vote opening sessions are limited resulting in cramped conditions and some inconvenience to staff and to candidates and agents who attend the sessions. If all candidates and agents entitled to attend actually did so we would have difficulty in accommodating them.

There were 6 postal vote opening sessions including a final one at the close of poll to deal with postal votes handed in to polling stations on polling day and with the Royal Mail "sweep" which includes any posted on polling day and reaching Sheffield Mail Centre by 9:00pm.

All staff who were to work at postal vote opening sessions attended a two-hour training session before the first session and were briefed at the beginning of each session. Supervisory staff also attended a full day training course delivered by the Association of Electoral Administrators. Only those who have attended training by the Forensic Science Service are authorised to adjudicate on signatures.

The postal vote opening process is complex and time-consuming and involves detailed checking of numbers on postal vote statements and ballot paper envelopes. Postal vote statements accompanying postal ballot papers must contain the voter's signature and date of birth and these must be checked against those given by the voters when they applied to vote by post. As described at 7.1, this election saw the additional complication of using one software system to check the identifiers collected by another. The significant time and resource devoted to working with our software supplier in testing their solution proved to have been worthwhile and this was a success.

In all more than 45,000 postal votes were opened and the signatures, dates of birth and co-relation of numbers of them all were checked and verified. The process was further complicated by the combination of the polls and the postal vote packs.

At the final session, held after the close of poll to deal with postal votes handed in at polling stations or received from the Royal Mail sweep of Sheffield Mail Centre, 1688 postal votes were opened and the numbers and personal identifiers on each were checked and verified. As predicted and mentioned in candidate briefing sessions and guidance notes, this process was still continuing after the contents of polling station ballot boxes had been verified at the count and delayed the progression from verification stage to the vote-counting stage.

Feedback from candidates/agents indicates that some have reservations about postal voting being available on demand and believe that this offers more opportunity for fraud. One candidate appears to doubt the integrity of the postal vote opening staff but did not attend any postal vote opening sessions so it is difficult to see any justification for such suspicion. Candidates who did attend the sessions, regardless of their political standpoint, were very satisfied with the way the sessions were conducted and the complex processes were managed. Some did comment on the cramped conditions in which the postal vote opening teams have to work.

## 7.7 Polling Day

The combination of polls required that additional consideration be given to polling stations in terms of additional equipment, staffing requirements and voter allocations.

Whilst combined polls are not unknown in Rotherham it had been more than 30 years since a parliamentary election had been combined with a local election in this area. The polling staff are used to combined polls where the franchise at each is much the same and voters are entitled to vote at both elections.

Franchise at a parliamentary election is limited to British and Commonwealth citizens but the local election includes European Union citizens too. This could lead to delays or confusion in polling stations. Polling staff would have to understand the franchise and be prepared to answer questions from voters.

These issues had already been considered in the project plan drawn up for this particular scenario as at 7.1. Once the parliamentary election date was confirmed, the plans were put into place.

- Voter allocations were reviewed at the pre-planning stage to ensure that they were well within Electoral Commission guidelines
- Staffing resources were reviewed and additional polling clerks were appointed where necessary to avoid delays caused by issuing two ballot papers, dealing with voter queries and marking the register properly to indicate which ballot paper(s) had been issued.
- Extra ballot boxes were hired and separate boxes for each election were issued to every polling station and labelled with colour-coded labels to clearly indicate which ballot papers should be inserted.
- Other polling equipment was reviewed to identify where extra equipment or supplies may be necessary. As usual in Rotherham, all polling stations were issued with 100% allocation of ballot papers.
- Additional Polling Station Inspectors were appointed to offer support to Presiding Officers on the day.
- All Presiding Officers and Polling Station Inspectors were required to attend training sessions. To accommodate the numbers, 6 training sessions were delivered by the two senior members of the Electoral Services team from 5pm to 7pm on 6 consecutive days. The officers also travelled to Barnsley to deliver training to polling staff who would be working in polling stations in Dearne North & Dearne South. Any Presiding Officer who did not attend a training session had their appointment cancelled and was replaced. A “reserve” list was maintained and individuals on the list were invited to attend training so that they could be appointed at short notice in case of illness etc.
- The briefing sessions for poll clerks were extended to allow for training on the franchise and how to issue ballot papers and mark the registers.
- The comprehensive polling staff guidance manuals were fully revised to take account of the very different requirements at these elections.
- A “quick guide” for polling staff was drawn up consisting of a table which made it much simpler to see at a glance which ballot paper(s) any elector was entitled to and how to mark the register. This was laminated and several copies issued to

every polling station as well as being included in the guidance manual issued to every Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk.

Whilst polling day was very busy at the stations and in the office, there were no significant problems and we did not suffer any of the issues experienced in some other areas.

The Electoral Commission appointed two official observers to the elections in Rotherham and they had the right to observe any and all proceedings in polling stations, at postal vote sessions and at the count.

The Electoral Services Office was staffed from 06:30 until 21:00 which was sufficient to meet the statutory needs. After that the service was backed up with a combination of contacts by mobile telephones with polling station inspectors and with electoral services staff who by this time were all at Magna.

Candidate feedback is generally very positive in this aspect of the election though some commented that voters found the combination of the polls confusing.

## **7.8 Counting of Votes**

There has been some adverse comment about the level of security at the count and so this point will be addressed separately at 7.9.

Several new count supervisors had to be recruited and trained for these elections because of the loss of some experience due to retirement and also because of the need for a greater number of supervisors because of the scale of the task. Several members of the Strategic Leadership team undertook the task and all made a valuable contribution despite little opportunity for in-depth training. The existing team of count supervisors acted as mentors and provided excellent levels of support whilst still meeting their own responsibilities.

The combination of polls added to the complexities and timescales for counting votes. Additional demands due to the volumes and complexities of postal votes for two major elections and “cross-boundary” working in the Wentworth & Dearne Constituency all increased the risk of a prolonged count and very late results.

The law required that the verification of ballot boxes for both elections and the verification of all postal votes at the final session **must** be completed before the counting of votes for candidates at either election could commence. This requirement was confirmed in guidance from the Electoral Commission and there were 2 EC observers in attendance at the count.

The government introduced new legislation at very short notice to ensure that the parliamentary counts commenced on Thursday night but as there was no safe way to predict what time they would finish, the counts for the local elections were deferred until the morning of Friday 7 May.

The verification stage commenced at 10pm with the counting teams dealing first with the boxes of postal ballots from the first five postal vote opening sessions.



The arrangements for getting presiding officers in and out of Magna had been reviewed in pre-planning meetings and provision to avoid delay built in. Feedback from Presiding Officers was good including the following comment:

***“Just wanted to say that the bit at Magna, giving in the ballot boxes, was the best I’ve experienced. The car queuing was not as long as usual, the actual checking in of the boxes was done before I’d noticed. Well done for all the organisation which went into making it so effortless” Presiding Officer – May 2010***

Overall the procedures at the verification went well despite the additional burdens presented by the legal requirement that the Rotherham Returning Officer verify the contents of the local and parliamentary ballot boxes for 2 extra electoral wards (Dearne North and Dearne South).

As predicted, there was a delay following the verification of polling station ballot boxes whilst the complex procedures were completed to deal with the 1688 postal votes in the final session.

There were no requests for re-counts and the results for each constituency were announced at the following times:

Rother Valley	03:17
Wentworth & Dearne	03:22
Rotherham	03:32

All results were posted on the council website within minutes of being declared.

The table at **Appendix 1** shows declaration times for all metropolitan authorities in West and South Yorkshire. Rotherham’s declarations were amongst the earliest.

Electoral Services staff and the Returning Officer remained at Magna until around 4 a.m. having ensured that all sensitive materials and local ballot boxes were secured ready for the local count on the following morning.

The Returning Officer and the Electoral Services team were back at Magna by 08:30 the following morning to ensure preparations were completed for the local election counts and to meet with Royal Mail to complete and hand over the parliamentary writs for return to the Clerk of the Crown.

The counting of local election votes commenced promptly at 11:00am and since all ballot boxes had been verified previously, the process of sorting and counting votes for candidates proceeded quickly and smoothly. There were no requests for recounts and all results had been declared by around 1:00pm. All results were posted on the council website within minutes of being declared.

Turnout statistics for parliamentary and local elections are attached at **Appendix 2**.

Commencing the counting of votes on the Thursday night is still a contentious issue. The delay experienced because of the final postal vote session was simply the need to process the final postal ballots that had been received up to the close of the poll. There were no other technical difficulties. Had there been technical difficulties the delay could have been significantly longer resulting in the count having to be reconvened during Friday.

The Gould report into the 2007 Scottish elections commissioned by the Electoral Commission concluded:

***“After carefully weighing the pros and cons of the alternatives, we recommend that if the polls continue to close at 10.00pm, there should be no overnight count of the ballot papers.”<sup>3</sup>***

Feedback from candidates indicates general satisfaction with the conduct of the count but 8 of the 27 candidates who responded had concerns about security.

## **7.9 Security at the Election and at the Count**

South Yorkshire Police had an active involvement during the election. Our contact with both the operational planning unit and the Economic Crime Unit are now well established and the police provide resources to help secure the integrity of all elections.

Postal votes were delivered by Royal Mail at an agreed time each day and handed directly to Electoral Services Officers who placed them in sealed ballot boxes which were kept secure until each postal vote opening session. Following the opening sessions, postal ballot papers to go to the count were secured in sealed ballot boxes. At all times, all the ballot boxes were securely stored with only Electoral Services Officers having access to the locked room in which they were contained.

Police patrolled and visited polling stations, were present at Magna throughout the count and provided the escort for local ballot boxes into and out of secure storage after the completion of the verification and before counting votes on Friday.

Planning meetings were held with South Yorkshire Police before and during the election period and detailed integrity plans were agreed. Following the announcement of the parliamentary election date a document “Election Security “Notes for Guidance” was received from ACPOS (Association of Chief Police Officers) and had to be taken into account.

Some candidates have questioned the need for the level of security at the count and there were admittedly some unforeseen consequences arising from the decision to use a professional security company used for other events held at Magna.

Because Magna’s own staff would be needed elsewhere to deal with the additional pressures at this election count, they could not be available for security. The

---

<sup>3</sup> *The Independent Review into the 2007 Scottish Elections conducted by Ron Gould and commissioned by the Electoral Commission*

unforeseen consequence of this decision was that the security agents would take instruction only from a member of the Magna team who had briefed them initially and this did cause some unfortunate delays in issuing changes to instructions when it became apparent that security could be somewhat relaxed.

The necessity for some form of security control at election counts is threefold:

- To ensure the safety of those inside the premises in case of an emergency or security incident
- To ensure rivalry between supporters does not become heated and lead to aggression
- To ensure that those persons appointed to observe proceedings at any particular count are able to do so clearly and without obstruction caused by over-crowding at tables

The advice from ACPOS indicated that the current terrorist threat assessment was higher than for some time and the size and uniqueness of the Magna building made it impossible for police search teams to search and secure every part of the premises before commencement of the count. It was therefore seen as important that access to the premises be strictly controlled to secure the safety of those entitled to be inside.

Because of the combination of polls, a total of 628 candidates and agents were entitled to attend the verification stage on Thursday night.

It is very important that those appointed to a particular count are able to observe the processes for their own count without being obstructed or intimidated by the presence of large numbers of people who have no entitlement.

Election rules in the Representation of the People Act 1983 and related statutory orders clearly state that no person other than those listed below may attend any specific count–

- a) the returning officer and his staff
- b) the candidates and one other person chosen by each of them
- c) the election agents
- d) the counting agents
- e) electoral commission observers

The rules do allow the returning officer very limited discretion but he must not exercise this unless he is satisfied that the efficient separation or counting of ballot papers will not be impeded and has either consulted the election agents or thought it impracticable to do so.

With verification of 23 electoral wards and 3 parliamentary constituencies followed by 3 parliamentary election counts it was originally considered important to maintain the separation to ensure transparency for those entitled to be in each count area.

If a situation arose where an individual appointed to attend and observe a particular count was to object to the presence at that count of any person who did not have the

same entitlement, the Returning Officer would have no choice but to ask them to leave the area. This could give rise to some unpleasantness which would be better avoided.

At previous election counts, police have had to intervene between rival supporters, some of whom had circumvented the access arrangements and gained admittance without any entitlement.

In light of the ACPOS document it was also important to know where to expect to find people in the event of an incident requiring evacuation. This document was clear in its advice that only previously authorised persons should be allowed entry and lists of who was present should be available at all times.

As it happened, not all those who were entitled to attend did so and as a result local candidates and agents who were only entitled to attend the verification stage were allowed to remain in the Big Hall (Counting Hall) for the parliamentary count contrary to the original plan that they would be moved to the Red Hall at this stage of the proceedings.

For the local election count on Friday, the Magna team were instructed to brief the security staff to relax restrictions and to take instruction from Electoral Services Officers. This allowed everyone to move freely throughout the Big Hall at the local count but access to the premises still had to be controlled.

The view from some candidates that security was “over the top” is understandable; it certainly must have seemed so since no serious incident occurred. However, security is still an important element for a successful and well managed count. The police will expect us to provide some security and not rely solely on their limited resources.

Security at future elections will be controlled directly by the Electoral Services team whether delivered by Magna or by a separate security service provider. This will ensure more flexibility to respond sensibly and quickly to the situation at any particular election count.

## **7.10 Assessment of Performance**

Against challenging odds the election was delivered successfully with none of the problems experienced elsewhere and given wide coverage in the media.

The feedback from staff, voters and candidates has been mostly very positive. There were very few complaints from voters and these are detailed at appendix 3. There was some anecdotal evidence that voters found the combination of the polls confusing.

The Electoral Commission’s official observers were complimentary and commented that the election had been managed professionally and efficiently at polling stations, postal vote opening sessions and at the count.

The core electoral team of 6 electoral officers worked very hard and under extreme pressure to ensure the successful delivery of these complex elections. The entire team worked throughout bank holidays and weekends and put in very long hours every day. During the period from 30 March to 5 May this small team of 6 with assistance from 2 temporary helpers dealt with 3,837 telephone calls.

On polling day every member of the team worked from 06:30am until 04:00am the following morning with only 2 short breaks of around an hour each. They were back at Magna within 4.5 hours by 08:30am on Friday to set up for the local count and remained until the conclusion of the local count and after all equipment and documents had been returned to secure storage in the afternoon. They had been unable to take leave during the early part of the year and were by now exhausted but justifiably proud of their achievement.

Any election cannot be delivered without additional support and this election required even more support from colleagues across the organisation and its partners. This was provided in full measure across RMBC, RBT and 2010 Ltd. and messages of thanks have been sent to them all.

The Returning Officer at this election was Martin Kimber who was newly in post as Chief Executive and Returning Officer. He provided strong support to the Electoral Services team and made himself available whenever necessary despite the many competing demands for his attention. He attended pre-planning meetings and briefing sessions and encouraged colleagues across the council to offer support.

The Electoral Commission sets and monitors national performance standards at elections and at this election the team at Rotherham exceeded the standard in every performance area.

## **8. Finance**

The cost of the election is being met from the current budget with additional funding from central government for the parliamentary elections. Some savings will be achieved through sharing costs for elements such as staffing and postage on postal vote packs.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There were many risks to the successful delivery of these elections some of which have been described earlier and all of which, on this occasion, have been successfully avoided. The challenges, however, continue to grow.

**“ I have serious reservations about being able to conduct future elections if there is no change to the timetable and if local authorities cut back on staff due to deficit problems”**

**Returning Officer Northern England<sup>4</sup>**

---

<sup>4</sup> Report on the administration of the 2010 UK general election

A separate report is being prepared for the October meeting of the Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel which will focus on the challenges to come as indicated in the Coalition's programme for government and also by the forthcoming office accommodation changes in Rotherham MBC and potential budgetary constraints.

## **10. Background Papers and Consultation**

- *Beyond 2010: the future of electoral administration in the UK – Association of Electoral Administrators*
- *The Independent Review into the 2007 Scottish Elections conducted by Ron Gould and commissioned by the Electoral Commission.*
- *Report on the administration of the 2010 UK general election - The Electoral Commission*
- *The Coalition – our programme for government*

**Contact Name :** *Mags Evers, Chief Elections and Electoral Registration Officer, telephone extension: 3521, e-mail address: [mags.evers@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:mags.evers@rotherham.gov.uk)*