

Appendix 2

Statistical and research evidence to inform the review

We know that voter turnout at Derby's local elections is significantly lower than for parliamentary elections. It is also lower compared to our neighbouring East Midlands cities. Evidence considered by the former Resources and Governance Board, during its review of the electoral cycle in 2012 found that the turnout in 2011, in all-out elections in Nottingham was 37.7% and 41.1% in Leicester, whilst election by thirds in Derby, in May 2012, achieved turnout of just 31%.

The turnout in the 2014 local election, which was combined with an election to the European Parliament, was 34% for the city as a whole. However, there were significant variations between the different electoral wards. Mackworth had the lowest turnout at 26.7%, whilst Allestree had the highest at 44.3%.

Turnout by ward in descending order, at the combined local and European elections in May 2014, our most recent data, is as follows:

Ward	Turnout
Allestree	44.3%
Littleover	43.3%
Mickleover	42.3%
Blagreaves	39.0%
Arboretum	36.0%
Spondon	36.0%
Chellaston	35.2%
Chaddesden	33.3%
Normanton	33.2%
Darley	32.1%
Alvaston	31.6%
Oakwood	31.2%
Boulton	30.9%
Abbey	28.1%
Derwent	27.5%
Sinfin	26.7%
Mackworth	26.4%
Average	34.0%

Institute for Government (IfG) research study

A recent report by IfG, an independent charity, [Programme for effective Government](#) has findings on the issue of voter motivation which may inform the board ahead of this review.

They state that nearly two-thirds of people think political parties in the UK generally do not keep their election promises and fewer than one in five think politicians are good at explaining how their policies will be paid for.

IfG says the clear message from the public – ahead of the final party conferences before next year's elections – was that politicians should not make promises they cannot keep.

According to the Populus poll of 2,040 adults in Britain, around two-thirds say they would be more likely to vote for a party that demonstrated how it would implement its manifesto pledges.

However, only a few (15%) are confident that parties know how they will deliver their policies in Government. Around 64% of people think that political parties in the UK generally do not keep their election promises. IfG director Peter Riddell said that whichever party takes office in May 2015 will have to govern differently to deliver on their election promises and build public confidence.

Impact of Individual Electoral Registration on voter turnout

The new system of Individual Electoral Registration came into effect on 10 June 2014. Whilst the first year of the new scheme will ensure that anyone on the current Register of Electors will be carried forward to the next register, to be used for the local and parliamentary elections in May 2015, thereafter there will be a requirement for individuals, rather than heads of households to apply to be on the register.

The Cabinet Office initiative will create a more secure, more robust register, but the higher burden of verification means that some may not meet the new requirements and rates of registration could fall in the medium term.

Lower rates of registration could impact on turnout.