Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Council
Date:	18th May 2023
Subject:	Return of Councillors Elected on 4th May 2023
Returning Officer:	Chief Executive – Stephen Brown
Contact Officer:	Monitoring Officer – Stephen Taylor
Ward(s):	All
Exempt:	No
Appendices:	None

1. Summary and Recommendations

1.1 To report the return of Councillors elected on 4th May 2023. It is a standing item of business at each Annual Meeting of Council following an election to receive a report detailing the return of councillors elected.

1.2 The report also provides Members with an update on position regarding voter identification at polling stations, which was introduced from May 2023 as a requirement of the Elections Act 2022.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

(i) Note and welcome the return of Councillors elected to Slough Borough Council on 4th May 2023, as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report.
(ii) Thank retiring members for their public service.

2. Report

Introductory paragraph

2.1 The Council agreed on 18th January 2022 to move to whole Council elections from 2023 and requested the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to conduct an electoral review for the purpose of designing a pattern of wards consistent with the move to whole Council elections. The Council made two submissions to LGBCE during the consultation phases that proposed a pattern of 21 wards each with 2 councillors.

2.2 The LGBCE completed their review in November 2022 and their final recommendations substantially adopted the Council's proposals. The new pattern of wards became law when the Slough (Electoral Changes) Order 2023 was made on 22nd February 2023, to come into effect from the elections on 4th May 2023.

2.3　The following Members were elected to the 21 new wards as follows:

NAME	WARD	TURNOUT
Fiza Ahmed Matloob Maroof Bibi Mohammad	Baylis & Salt Hill	35.42%
Robert Anderson Pavitar Kaur Mann	Britwell	26.10%
Zafar Satti Rifaqat Zarait	Chalvey	32.92%
Ishrat Shah Robert Stedmond	Cippenham Green	36.47%
Nadeem Khawar Dilbagh Singh Parmar	Cippenham Manor	29.52%
Bally Gill Frank Mark O'Kelly	Cippenham Village	30.58%
Puja Bedi Dexter Jerome Smith	Colnbrook & Poyle	30.09%
Amjad Abbasi Asim Naveed	Elliman	29.66%
Sabia Akram Waqas Sabah	Farnham	23.87%
Paul James Kelly Anna Sylwia Wright	Haymill	29.00%
Zaffar Iqbal Ajaib Christine Hulme	Herschel Park	23.66%
Mark Instone Naveeda Qaseem	Langley Foxborough	29.95%
Waljinder Singh Chahal Chandra Sekhar Muvvala	Langley Marish	40.48%
Neel Rana Mabu Khan Shaik	Langley Meads	31.06%
Adil Iftakhar Gurcharan Singh Manku	Langley St Mary's	38.12%
Mohammed Nazir Jamila Sabah	Manor Park & Stoke	32.34%

Martin Carter Siobhan Fiona Dauti	Northborough & Lynch Hill	25.89%
Ejaz Ahmed Dhruv Singh Tomar	Slough Central	28.24%
Balwinder Dhillon Subhash Chandar Mohindra	Upton	38.96%
Haqeeq Ashraf Dar Andrea Escott	Upton Lea	36.19%
Iftakhar Ahmed Harjinder Singh Gahir	Wexham Court	38.71%

2.4   Following a series of pilots in England in the 2018 local elections, Parliament approved the Elections Act 2022 that stipulated that from May 2023 electors were required to show photographic identification before being issued with a ballot paper in polling stations. Voter ID applies to future Parliamentary, local, Police & Crime Commissioner elections and any referendums.

2.5   Eligible photo ID included UK and Commonwealth passports, driving licenses, many concessionary travel cards and Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) card. People without existing acceptable forms of voter ID could apply to the Council for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) to show in the polling station.

2.6   The Council undertook a significant amount of communications activity in the run up to the elections to raise awareness of the new voter ID requirements. This included:

- A four-week advertising campaign in digital advertising boards including the A4 Bath Road between Uxbridge Road and Wexham Road.
- A four-week online advertising campaign on the Slough Express website, social media feeds and within the newspaper.
- A series of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter advertisements starting from February 2023 which reached tens of thousands of residents.
- A range of printed materials such as leaflets and posters were also produced (in a variety of languages) and distributed through places of worship and community groups.

2.7   The new Voter Authority Certificates that were produced for electors who were unable to provide voter ID at polling stations was 82. The authority did not have any anonymous electors included in this figure.

2.8   Voter ID information was publicised across the country by the Electoral Commission and information was made available for electors to look at the requirements for voting at a polling station. Slough communications team provided extensive advertising on Voter ID leading up to the election on 4 May 2023. Digital electronic boards and local newspapers, Facebook and social media were several of the channels used to help increase electors awareness of the requirements.

2.9 Some data about voter ID in Slough Borough Council's election follows. This data is provisional as it has yet to be fully verified by the elections team. The final submission to the Electoral Commission may differ slightly.

2.10 Total voter turnout was 32,664 which was 32.4% of the electorate. 22,727 people cast a ballot paper in a polling station in the Borough Council election, and a further 9,937 voted by post. All IDs presented at the polling stations were checked, but we didn't in every case record what type of ID was used.

2.11 In summary, there were:
- 57 uses of a Voter Authority Certificate (0.3%).
- 13,668 uses of a Drivers Licence (60.1%).
- 3,747 uses of a passport (16.5%).
- 1,680 uses of a transport pass (7.4%).
- 777 uses of another form of ID (3.4%).

2.12 On that basis, Voter IDs were recorded for a total of 19,929 voters.

2.13 Although this is still being verified, the current position is that:
- 69 people were initially turned away for not having acceptable ID; and
- 422 people were initially turned away for producing no ID.

2.14 Of the 491 initially turned away, 326 are known to have returned with acceptable ID and been issued a ballot paper. At this stage, it is understood that 165 people did not return and vote after being turned away which amounts to 0.72% of the people who came to a polling station.

2.15 The following figures show turnout for this year's election as compared to previous elections in the borough. The figures are not exactly comparable due to the various different combinations of elections being run each year, and other factors.

Year	Elections	Overall turnout
2014	European Parliament and all Members of Slough Borough Council	33.1%
2019	General Election	59.0%
2020	None	-
2021	Police and Crime Commissioner, One Third of Slough Borough Councillors, by-election for Wexham Court Parish Council	30.7%
2022	One third of Slough Borough Councillors	32.5%
2023	All members of Slough Borough Council, Britwell Parish Council, Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council and Wexham Court Parish Council	32.4%

Option considered

2.16 No alternative options are proposed as the report is to note.

3.   Implications of the Recommendation

3.1   Financial implications

3.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report which is for Members to note.

3.2   Legal implications

3.2.1 The election took place in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions.

3.3   Risk management implications

3.3.1 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

3.4   Environmental implications

3.4.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

3.5   Equality implications

3.5.1 There are no equality implications arising from the report.

4.   Background Papers

None.