

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet **Date:** 14 February 2012  
**Subject:** Support Services Portfolio  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor John Wyatt

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Support Services Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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## **Epping Forest Youth Council**

Youth elections are nearing completion across the district to find the new Epping Forest Youth Councillors that will stand for the next two years. Elections are being held at all secondary schools across Epping Forest and Chigwell and Braeside Independents, and young people at these schools have had the opportunity to take part in the same election process that is applied to general council elections. Staff from the Council's Democratic Services have supported Community Development in the process, which has received an excellent response from young people.

## **Electoral Register Canvass**

### **(a) Timescale**

The Police & Crime Commissioner election on 15 November 2012 has occasioned a review by the Government of the dates for the electoral canvass in respect of the 2012 register. Normally the canvass would begin in September each year but for 2012, the Government has directed that it should begin at the latest on 2 July 2012 so that the register is published on 16 October 2012. This will enable the November election to be based on an up to date register rather than one which is 11 months out of date. Poll cards will be issued on that basis.

Members will also be interested to learn that there will be no canvass in 2013 due to preparations for the transfer to individual elector registration. Thus the next canvass after this year will in Spring 2014.

### **(b) Additional Methods for Registering**

The Electoral Registration Officer is investigating the possibility of introducing registration via the internet, text messaging or telephone and it is hoped that this can be put in place for this year's canvass. For those households where the electoral roll details remain unchanged, re-registering will be made a lot easier. These methods of registration already work successfully in a number of authorities.

I will keep Members up to date about this initiative via the Council Bulletin.