

Appendix 5

Cabinet Office Criteria for Electoral Pilot

- a. *An understanding of the Government's objectives for the project and how the pilot fits with these objectives;*

The Pilot findings in 2019 in conjunction with the results from 2018 will determine the most effective way the government can introduce polling station voter ID checks for all elections across the UK. By delivering another pilot using poll cards we would hope to persuade the government that this is the most effective and easiest means of achieving that objective without causing disenfranchisement for those eligible electors who would not otherwise have the requisite ID

- b. *The feasibility of delivering the pilot within the available time frame;*

It is practical within the available time frame having previously undertaken and established the principal requirements with combined Borough and Mayoral elections under the initial 2018 Pilot, with evaluations highlighting aspects to refine for delivery of a 2019 Pilot with operational enhancements to improve efficiency and elector experience.

- c. *An on-going assessment of equality considerations in the design and delivery of the pilots; identifying all potential impacts on each of the protected groups and/or provide sufficient mitigation for any adverse impact;*

Both Watford BC and the Cabinet Office will undertake detailed EIA which will be updated as the Pilot project progresses.

- d. *There are effective planning management arrangements in place and sufficient resources and capacity in the local authority to deliver the pilot, including availability of staff after the election to contribute to the evaluation process;*

As for 2018 Pilot effective planning management arrangements will be established upon acceptance and confirmation of Pilot application. Any additional resources and costs will be agreed with the Cabinet Office.

- e. *management of software suppliers;*

As at 2018 Pilot, application is based upon work, software development and delivery with Modern Democracy Ltd. in conjunction with Watford's Idox election management system.

- f. *An understanding of the contingencies you need to have in place – particularly to protect the security and integrity of the election;*

As with 2018 Pilot, Watford BC, Cabinet Office, AEA and Modern Democracy Ltd. will work to establish required safeguards and ensure back-up procedures are drafted and in place to ensure that security and integrity standards are met and maintained.

- g. A clear and comprehensive communications plan covering all stakeholders;*

A publicity campaign will be undertaken to ensure means and types of communication are used to effectively deliver Pilot requirements having regard to the Equality Impact Assessment.

- h. The evaluation process will be fully supported;*

Ways and means to record elector statistics will be agreed with Cabinet Office and Electoral Commission to fulfil the requirement to provide data for the evaluation of Pilot processes.

- i. The pilot has an effective business case and offers value for money;*

There is already a budget for the conduct of scheduled Borough Ward elections. All additional Pilot costs will be met by the Cabinet Office.

Issuing poll cards is something that is done at every election regardless of whether we would be taking part in the pilot. Part of the evaluation will be the determination of whether the on-going introduction of technology will deliver value for money if rolled out across the country.

- j. There is a clear means of testing the impact of the innovation;*

Actual total of verified eligible electors refused their ballot paper due to non-production of poll card or other prescribed type of ID plus level of turnout compared to other similar stand-alone Borough Ward election polls.

- k. Any innovation is at least as secure as conventional electoral practices;*

As with 2018 Pilot, Watford BC, Cabinet Office, AEA and Modern Democracy Ltd. will work to establish safeguards and ensure security standards including those for data handling and storage are met and maintained.

- l. The pilot will maintain public confidence in the electoral process, that key risks and issues have been identified, and that a plan has been drawn up for managing them;*

A risk assessment will be undertaken which will be updated as and when required as the Pilot project progresses.

- m. Digital capability (where applicable).*

As at 2018 Pilot, application is based upon work, software development and delivery with Modern Democracy Ltd. in conjunction with Watford's Idox election management system.