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Objective: Resilient local electoral services You are in the Annual Report and
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updated: 27 September 2023 What we are working to achieve Local electoral services
face significant economic, social, and environmental challenges which risk impacting
on their ability to deliver well-run elections and referendums. We are working to
help local authorities and electoral administrators to respond to these pressures. We
are also working to support the consistent delivery of high-quality services for
voters, and the development of resilient local electoral services by: setting
challenging performance standards for local electoral services providing accessible
guidance and support for electoral administrators supporting increased resilience of
local electoral services ensuring the electoral system works effectively. Work done
to achieve this aim The capacity and resilience of electoral administrators remains a
significant challenge. Our May 2022 election reports found that administrators
struggled to recruit staff and find suitable venues for polling stations and the
count. The Commission called for sufficient clarity on funding to effectively prepare
for changes from the Elections Act. The implementation of the Elections Act is having
a significant impact on electoral administrators, and we have continued to support
their understanding and preparation for these changes. This has included the
development of guidance and resources to support implementation of the new
provisions, as well as the continued provision of an advice service for local
authorities, delivered through our devolved and regional teams. As always, we
produced comprehensive guidance on preparing for and delivering the May 2023
elections, designed to support Returning Officers and electoral administrators.
Resources were also developed to help local authorities to communicate the new voter
ID requirements to their residents. This is an important part of our objective to
support local authorities and electoral administrators to deliver effective,
sustainable and resilient services. We consulted on new Returning Officer performance
standards, which have been designed to provide a robust framework for the delivery of
well-run elections, support the effective and consistent implementation of
legislative changes, and enable transparent reporting on the delivery of elections.
The standards also address the changes arising from the Elections Act. They were
finalised and laid in parliaments in December 2022, and are now in place. We have
also updated the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) framework, last reviewed in
2021, to reflect the new responsibilities on EROs arising from the Elections Act. An
electoral administrator following May 2022 elections We had significant numbers of
staff not taking up their positions again and this seems to be an increasing problem.
We were lucky in that our neighbouring authority did not have elections and loaned us
a number of staff. If they had also had elections we'd have been struggling to fill
vacancies. An electoral administrator following May 2022 elections Performance
indicators Indicator Target 2022-23 Accurate advice to Returning Officers, Electoral
Registration Officers, and candidates & agents within three days (Great Britain) 100%
93.35% Publication of accurate and timely guidance products for electoral
administrators 100% 100% Ongoing and future work As part of our post-election
reporting, we will be gathering data from local authorities and surveying those
responsible for delivering elections to understand the impact of the new measures,
including how they found implementing voter ID. We will seek feedback to enable us to
evaluate our new guidance for Returning Officers and to identify and take on board

any learnings that emerge. We will update our guidance to reflect further changes to elections and electoral registration, including reforms to postal, proxy and overseas voting rules, arising from the Elections Act. We will continue to use the performance standards to support the consistent delivery of high-quality, electoral services for voters and to support the ongoing resilience of local electoral services. We will continue to work with the Electoral Coordination and Advisory Board to address challenges around resilience and capacity, including in relation to polling station staffing and suppliers. Association of s, October 2022 We believe the Electoral Commission's statutory work on how to run elections is very effective. It provides excellent guidance, supporting resources and good practice for Returning Officers and electoral administrators. Association of s, October 2022 Navigation Previous Next

Objective: transparent political campaigning and compliant political finance

Objective: Fair and effective electoral law