

Title of Report:

**District Council By-Election:
Thatcham North - 5th May 2005**

Item 8

Report to be considered by: Annual Council

Purpose of Report:

To inform Council of the result of the by-election in the Thatcham North Ward held on 5th May 2005.

Recommended Action:

To note the attached report.

Reason for decision to be taken:

To note the result of the by-election held in the Thatcham North District Ward as a result of the resignation of Councillor Bob Judge.

List of other options considered:

None

Key background documentation:

Advice received from The Electoral Commission on Combined Elections.

Contact Officer Details

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Implications

Policy:	N/a
Financial:	<p>The costs associated with the by-election are unbudgeted and therefore will result in a pressure within the Strategy & Commissioning Service Grouping for 2005/6 of between £2,250-£2,500.</p> <p>The cost of the Parish by-election to be held on 26th May 2005 will be recoverable from the Town Council.</p>
Legal:	In accordance with Representation of the People Acts, associated regulations and guidance issued by The Electoral Commission.
Risk Management:	Assessments carried out by Presiding Officers at the individual polling stations as part of Parliamentary Election held on same day. Further assessments carried out during Polling Day by Visiting Officers appointed by the Returning Officer.

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Notification was received from Councillor Bob Judge on 21st March 2005 resigning from the Council, together with the appropriate petition for a by-election in the Thatcham North Ward. Councillor Judge was also a member of Thatcham Town Council and a Parish by-election was also called. However as a result of the Parliamentary election being called and held on 5th May, the Parish by-election for seats in Thatcham North and Thatcham Central were postponed to 26th May in accordance with advice issued by the Electoral Commission on Combined Arrangements For Elections. Members of Council were advised that the by-election would be held on 5th May 2005.
- 1.2 At the close of nominations on 7th April 2005, two candidates had provided the appropriate documentation and a statement issued on 11th April 2005 as to persons nominated.
- 1.3 As the district by-election was held at the same time as the Parliamentary election 77 polling stations were used. Separate ballot boxes were used for the District and Parliamentary elections to aid the Count and ensure that verification was more quickly dealt with.

2. Statement of Persons Elected

- 2.1 The result of the District Council by-election for the Thatcham North Ward held on 5th May 2005 was as follows:

Sheila Margaret ELLISON	1431
Graham Ernest REEVES	1256

Turnout 68.6%

- 2.2 The count in respect of the Parliamentary election and the District Council election commenced at about 10.00p.m. on 5th May 2005. Both the Parliamentary and District Council boxes had to be verified at the same time in order to ensure that no votes for one or other of the electoral processes had been placed in the wrong ballot box. The result was declared at 11.45p.m.
- 2.3 I would like to thank all staff involved in dealing with the Thatcham North Ward by-election and for their efficient handling of the election process.

Appendices

None

Consultation Responses

Local Stakeholders: N/a

Officers Consulted: Corporate Director (Strategy & Commission) Phil Runacres, Caroline Gray

Trade Union: N/a