

Report to:	Council of Governors	Agenda item:	7
Date of Meeting:	5 December 2017		

Title of Report:	2017 Election Report
Status:	For Information
Sponsor:	Brian Stables, Chairman
Author:	Roxy Poultney, Membership & Governance Manager
Appendices	Appendix 1 – ERS contested election report Appendix 2 – ERS uncontested election report

Purpose

To provide the Council of Governors with an update following the Governor elections in 2017. The 2017 elections took place from 14 August to 25 October 2017 with the aim of electing three Staff Governors, and six Public Governors across all of our public constituencies. This was the second constituency-wide election for new Governors since becoming an NHS Foundation Trust hospital in 2014.

2017 Governor Election

The process to elect new Governors began on 14 August 2017.

The Electoral Reform Services acted as the Trust's Returning Officer, and all election material was distributed and received by them. All eligible members within the following constituencies were eligible to apply:

- City of Bath
- North East Somerset
- Mendip
- North Wiltshire
- South Wiltshire
- Rest of England and Wales
- Staff

Promotion of the Election

During the year there was a campaign of activities to raise public, staff and member awareness of the intention to run the second Constituency wide election since becoming an NHS FT in 2014. Key activities were similar to the year before and included:

- Information guides about becoming a governor were created for sharing with all interested public and staff members.

- Regular contact was made with all members who had expressed an interest. These individuals were also invited to meet the Membership & Governance Manager and Chairman to find out more about the role.
- The Communications Department supported the entire election process by updating and sending press releases focused to the community areas and also utilising social media platforms.
- The RUH website was regularly updated, include a “Becoming a Governor” button on the front page for members to express interest in standing. This linked into a page about the Council of Governors and further information about the election.
- Nominations and elections were promoted in the member’s newsletter and in the Insight and @RUHBath magazines for all members.

The election process followed a longer timetable (55 days) as it spanned the summer months. Below is a summary of the key figures during this process.

- **31** members (and the public) requested the Trust’s Public Governor Information booklet.
- **52** members requested a nomination form from the Electoral Reform Services.
- Of those members, **21** returned their nomination forms.
- **2** candidates withdrew their applications, both public members - one from South Wiltshire and one from the City of Bath constituency, leaving **19** potential candidates split as follows:
 - City of Bath – 4
 - North East Somerset – 4
 - Mendip – 3
 - North Wiltshire – 2
 - South Wiltshire – 1
 - Rest of England and Wales – 0
 - Staff - 5
- Candidates signed up approximately **85** members to support their election campaigns.
- 7,619 public members were eligible to vote.
- 5,156 staff members were eligible to vote.
- 1,657 / 7,619 public members voted = **21.7%** of the public membership
 - Constituency split as follows:
 - City of Bath – 598 / 2,519 = **23.7%**
 - North East Somerset – 452 / 2,014 = **22.4%**
 - Mendip – 291 / 1,284 = **22.7%**
 - North Wiltshire – 316 / 1,802 = **17.5%**

- Although turnout was down on last year, the results are still good considering the number of elections we have had to take part in nationally. ERS confirmed that in general, public turnout was usually higher than staff. The majority of NHS Foundation Trusts average a 15-20% turnout.
- 718 / 5,156 staff members voted = 13.9% of the staff membership
- Staff voting turnout was still disappointing (but 0.9% up on last year), and ERS commented that in comparison the average staff turnout for all FT elections that ERS run is around 15%
- During the election, **32** members cancelled their Trust membership as a result of the receiving the election material.
- The successful candidates were elected to the RUH's Council of Governors and began their term on 1st November 2017:
 - Amanda Buss – City of Bath(re-elected)
 - Helen Rogers – North East Somerset (re-elected)
 - Mike Welton – Mendip (re-elected)
 - Jacek Kownacki – North Wiltshire
- Chris Hardy was confirmed as the new Governor for South Wiltshire and was confirmed through an uncontested election (after the other candidate withdrew prior to the vote).
- A copy of the election result is attached at appendix 1 and 2 for your information.

Rest of England and Wales bi-election

Whilst four members from the Rest of England and Wales constituency expressed an interest, none of the nomination forms were returned to ERS and as a result a bi-election is being held.

The bi-election for this constituency began on 26th October, and the election timetable is as follows:

ELECTION STAGE	OPTION 1
Notice of Election / nomination open	Thursday, 26 Oct 2017
Nominations deadline	Friday, 10 Nov 2017
Final date for candidate withdrawal	Wednesday, 15 Nov 2017
Electoral data to be provided by Trust	Friday, 17 Nov 2017
Notice of Poll published	Wednesday, 29 Nov 2017
Voting packs despatched	Thursday, 30 Nov 2017
Close of election	Wednesday, 20 Dec 2017
Declaration of results	Thursday, 21 Dec 2017

Next Governor Election

The next election will be held in 2019, providing that we do not need to run any bi-elections.

Recommendations

The Council of Governors is asked to:

1. Note the update report

**ROYAL UNITED HOSPITALS BATH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

CLOSE OF VOTING: 5PM ON 24 OCTOBER 2017

CONTEST – Public: City of Bath

RESULT		1 to elect
Amanda BUSS	421	ELECTED
Ben ROGERS	79	
Michael NEWBY	60	
Alan Paul STAINER	31	

Number of eligible voters		2,519
Votes cast by post:	423	
Votes cast online:	175	
Total number of votes cast:		598
Turnout:		23.7%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		7
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		591

CONTEST - Public: Mendip

RESULT		1 to elect
Michael WELTON	155	ELECTED
John Charles DRAKE	89	
John Anthony CHAPPELL	45	

Number of eligible voters		1,284
Votes cast by post:	222	
Votes cast online:	69	
Total number of votes cast:		291
Turnout:		22.7%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		2
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		289



**ROYAL UNITED HOSPITALS BATH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

CONTEST – Public: North East Somerset

RESULT		1 to elect
Helen ROGERS	261	ELECTED
Melanie Dawn HILTON	132	
Ray LOVE	41	
Lucille ADEMANTÉ	18	

Number of eligible voters		2,014
Votes cast by post:	358	
Votes cast online:	94	
Total number of votes cast:		452
Turnout:		22.4%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		0
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		452

CONTEST - Public: North Wiltshire

RESULT		1 to elect
Jacek Waclaw KOWNACKI	193	ELECTED
David NEWTON SMITH	121	

Number of eligible voters		1,802
Votes cast by post:	247	
Votes cast online:	69	
Total number of votes cast:		316
Turnout:		17.5%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		2
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		314

**ROYAL UNITED HOSPITALS BATH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

CONTEST – Staff

RESULT		3 to elect
Michael COUPE	478	ELECTED
Darrin KING	304	ELECTED
Kate FRYER	271	ELECTED
Shaun LOMAX	183	
Eddie PURCELL	141	

Number of eligible voters		5,156
Votes cast by post:	474	
Votes cast online:	244	
Total number of votes cast:		718
Turnout:		13.9%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		1
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		717

Electoral Reform Services can confirm that, as far as reasonably practicable, every person whose name appeared on the electoral roll supplied to us for the purpose of the election:-

- a) was sent the details of the election and
- b) if they chose to participate in the election, had their vote fairly and accurately recorded

The elections were conducted in accordance with the rules and constitutional arrangements as set out previously by the Trust, and ERS is satisfied that these were in accordance with accepted good electoral practice.

All voting material will be stored for 12 months.

Ciara Norris

Ciara Norris
Returning Officer
On behalf of Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust



**ROYAL UNITED HOSPITALS BATH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS: 5PM ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

Further to the deadline for nominations for the above election, the following constituencies are uncontested:

Public: South Wiltshire 1 to elect
The following candidate is elected unopposed: Chris Hardy

Public: Rest of England 1 to elect
No valid nomination received <i>1 vacancy remains</i>

All term lengths are for 3 years unless specified differently above.

Ciara Norris
Returning Officer
On behalf of Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust

ELECTORAL REFORM SERVICES

