

Steps that local councils should already be taking to assist with the transition to IER

- How has your local authority analysed the last annual household canvass and compared the results on a ward by ward basis to the previous year's canvass?
- Has your local authority analysed the results of the last annual canvass in terms of which areas are richest in people moving, and used that analysis to drive the pattern of your voter registration activities?
- Does your authority maintain a database of electors who have confirmed their electoral registration details via the "No Change" method, and will it be using this database to ensure people who have been previously registered but haven't been re-registered are contacted?
- In addition to your Council Tax, Housing Tenancy and Benefits databases, are there any additional databases that your local authority is using to match elector data for electoral registration purposes? If not, are there additional databases that your authority could be using for this purpose?
- Is data held by your local authority, such as your Housing Benefit database, being used to identify residents who are not currently registered to vote and to encourage them to do so?
- How is your local authority targeting its doorstep canvass for the transition to IER? Are HMOs and other properties associated with lower rates of registration being prioritised?
- Does your authority have a strategy for communicating with ethnic minority communities, and in particular those who don't use English as a first language? Are there translated versions of electoral registration leaflets and forms available for these residents?
- What is your authority's communication strategy for explaining the transition to IER to local residents? If your authority has a regular publication, is it being used as part of this strategy?
- Does your authority prompt local residents with electoral registration reminders at other points of contact with the council, such as when residents apply for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or any other council service?
- Does your authority have a plan for implementing an interaction strategy, whereby reminders of the changes to electoral registration will be included with council tax bills, tenancy paperwork and other communications sent out by the council?
- Does your authority have a specific strategy for residents in the private rented sector and residents in houses of multiple occupation? Are local private sector landlords being liaised with to ensure electoral registration information is included in tenancy packs and other communications they have with their tenants?
- Are council officers present at citizenship ceremonies to encourage newly eligible electors to register to vote straight away?
- Will officers from your local authority be visiting schools and colleges in the area to encourage over 18s to register to vote and over 16s to register as attainments (people who will soon turn 18) on the electoral register?