

# Northumberland County Council Election update

Dear Parish Clerk

With the local and PCC elections scheduled to take place in May, I thought it might be helpful to let you know what we are doing to promote the polls, to make the register of electors as accurate as possible and promote alternative ways for electors to cast their vote.

In the next few days, electors who have voted by post for the last five years will be asked to refresh the signature they originally provided us. This is a legal requirement, and we will also take the opportunity to check their date of birth entry, to keep our records as accurate as possible.

In February 2021, I will be formally writing to everyone who currently votes in person at a polling station and offering those electors the option to apply for a postal vote. We will provide each person with a part populated form that only requires a signature and their date of birth to complete the application. A pre-paid envelope for returning the form as well as the ability to scan the document back to us will help people return it to us at no cost to themselves.

At the same time as the postal vote write out, we will also be letting each household know who the registered electors in that property are. This will allow anyone who's name is not included on the list, the opportunity to register in good time for the May polls. We are combining this with a revised communications campaign at the same time to promote postal voting as a safe method of voting but we have robust plans in place to ensure that polling in person will be undertaken within a covid secure environment.

I hope this is helpful and if you have any questions about the forthcoming May polls, please contact me as Returning Officer or my Elections Team manager and Deputy Returning Officer, Mark Crawford ([mark.crawford@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:mark.crawford@northumberland.gov.uk)).