

Conference Opener – A Review of the Year

Our opening session will see AEA looking back at the unprecedented challenges you have faced over the last 12 months: local elections; unscheduled European Parliamentary election; unscheduled UK Parliamentary General election; the annual canvass; preparations for canvass reform; reviews of polling districts and polling places; as well as business as usual. Tim Burke will also provide a look behind the scenes at the challenges faced by the BBC in reporting on the elections and the logistical challenges they created.

Question Time

Following the format of the BBC current affairs programme this session will focus on several key issues of debate for electoral services with a panel of key figures speaking on each issue. At the end of each debate you will have the opportunity to express your thoughts on the matters discussed using voting buttons.

Keynote Speech from the Minister for the Constitution

The Minister, Chloe Smith MP, Parliamentary Secretary (Minister for the Constitution) will be in attendance to give the Conference's keynote speech.

Canvass Reform

The legislation for Canvass Reform in England was made in November 2019 with Scotland and Wales following shortly. Hear the latest news from the Cabinet Office on where we are at with Canvass Reform following the unscheduled UK Parliamentary General Election, the legislative journey, the current timetable and the work required in the next six months.

Electoral Commission Update

Hear the latest news from the Electoral Commission, including looking ahead to their plans for the May 2020 polls, Canvass Reform and the Electoral Integrity Bill. Updates will be provided on several areas of interest to administrators.

Strengthening the integrity of elections and IER Digital Service

Hear more about the Government's plans to bring forward measures to strengthen security around voting as part of a wider initiative to improve trust in the integrity of the electoral process, maintain public confidence and support equality and inclusivity in our electoral system. An update will also be provided on recent and upcoming changes to the IER digital service.

Review of 2019

Hear from four different authorities about the particular challenges they faced and the lessons learnt from: the voter ID pilot at Woking Borough Council; the first recall petition and a UK Parliamentary by-election at Peterborough City Council; reflections on the unscheduled European Parliamentary election by the Regional Returning Officer for Wales; and the experiences at the London Borough of Hillingdon of delivering the UK Parliamentary general election when the Prime Minister is on the ballot paper.

Education Plenary – Local Government Act 1972

This session will look at a challenging and wide-ranging piece of legislation that is often overlooked. It will consider the impact it has on our work, how best to access it, the role of the Proper Officer, casual vacancies, councillor resignations, and election requests amongst other things.

Educational Plenary – The Nomination Process

With your help, this interactive session will look at some real-life experiences that administrators have faced and consider whether the nomination should be allowed or rejected. It will consider issues such as the use of continuation sheets, 'lost' and 'found' nomination papers, delivery issues, use of descriptions, commonly used names and political slogans.

Close of Conference