

1 Purpose of the Protocol

- 1.1 The purpose of the protocol is to formally record in writing a commitment by all parties, individuals and organisations involved in the 5th May 2022 elections in the London Borough of Hounslow.
- 1.2 The protocol in general terms can be summarised as follows:
- to work towards a free and fair election
 - to ensure allegations are correctly reported and investigated
 - to campaign fairly, within the law and abiding by the Electoral Commission guidance

2 Reasons for the Protocol

- 2.1 Recent elections in London Borough of Hounslow have generated complaints and allegations of electoral fraud. In general, these have not been substantiated following Police investigation. This protocol is designed to address some of the issues raised and stand as a commitment towards a more positive experience in future elections.
- 2.2 The Protocol has the support of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) Returning Officer (RO) and the Metropolitan Police
- 2.3 Candidates standing in the May 2022 elections and associated election agents and political parties will be invited to sign the local protocol and give a commitment to comply with its provisions.

3 Scope of this protocol

- 3.1 The protocol covers all those actively involved in campaigning in elections in Hounslow in May 2022.

All references to campaigners in the protocol include:

- Candidates standing at an election, their agents, campaigners and their staff and supporters
- Political party officers, members and supporters campaigning at an election
- Other people and organisations campaigning for or against a candidate, a group of candidates or a party at an election

3 Compliance with this protocol

Any concerns that this protocol has been breached should be raised first with the ERO / RO who will mediate in any dispute. This does not impact upon the right of all parties to campaign in lawful and usual ways.

Agreed and effective from January 2022

Declaration

I/we commit to abide by the ethos and specifics of the London Borough of Hounslow's Local Protocol:

Name:

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Role / Organisation / Party:

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If Candidate – Area in which standing:

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Signed:

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Date:

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