Summary of key contributions to the Elections Schema consultation

Tim Adams – LGA – 5-May-2016 – ***red bold highlight changes carries – make changes to spec as v1.1***

1. Consider CURIEs for the URIs as well as full URIs

2. Should we separate out first name and last name? Why capitalise last name?

3. Should we avoid duplicate data – i.e. same council for every candidate

4. **Make ReportEmail ContactEmail and ReportTel ContactTel**

5. Future use of GitHub

6. Wider consultation needed. Audience is too narrow – Planning schema failed for this very reason

7. Can this be aligned with official returns sent to Electoral Commission and to Plymouth University?

8. A council suggests it needs 20 days after election to respond! Why?

9. ODI self certification in the past has been unreliable and unwieldy

10. **Candidate names AEA says SURNAME Given Names, e.g. HARMAN Lionel Roger. Provision needs to be included for commonly used names too**

11. Political party code and label AEA says candidates can also use their own description for their registered political party providing it is authorised by the official political party nominating officer. At present, notice of election results show the candidates' chosen registered description (if any) and not necessarily the registered political party name, or independent or to leave the description blank. Whilst there is a benefit for the use of data nationally to use the registered political party code, **there should also be an additional data field that captures the relevant registered description or independent for each candidate and not just the registered political party name.**

12. **AEA says only use the field ELECTED or NOT ELECTED** – none of the other suggestions

13. AEA says total votes cast and size of the electorate. Returning Officers often include the percentage turnout on a notice of election result although there is no statutory requirement to do so. Whilst data will be gathered for the total number of votes cast for all candidates and the total size of the electorate, **it would be beneficial if the percentage turnout could also be included so that all the data is in one place**. Generally, a Returning

Officer will calculate the percentage turnout using the following figures: total votes verified at the count against total eligible electorate at the election.

14. AEA says rejected votes - page 13 details four reasons for the rejection of votes. At a multi vacancy election (for example, a local authority multi vacancy ward election) **there is also the additional reason "rejected in part**".

15. AEA says election type and name after the pilots also keep in mind
    - Police and Crime Commissioner
    - Greater London Authority: Mayoral, Assembly and Constituency

    Consideration would also need to be given to the following election types if the proposal were to be extended UK wide:
    - Welsh Assembly
    - Scottish Parliament
    - Northern Ireland Assembly
    - Community Council Elections in Wales

16. Plymouth says the ability to publish turnout percentage will be really helpful. Will it also show percentage majority as well as numerical majority? This matter is very important in the case of multimember wards (for local elections) when parties supply multiple candidates. We have given this matter a lot of consideration over the years and have developed an algorithm for making this calculation. We realise that the candidate and his/her votes are important but again people will want to know about each party's vote share.

17. Plymouth says the gender of candidates will be really useful

18. Plymouth says under CandidateName you propose to have surname followed by first names using spaces as separators. Our experience is the names such as 'de Beauvoir' create problems if the surname field is not correctly specified

19. Plymouth says the growing (and annoying) practice of a number of local authorities is to allow candidates to pick whatever name they so choose to put on the nominations papers. One year it is William, the next it is Bill only for it to revert to something else at a later date. Can this, and gender be resolved?

20. Plymouth says published data should be back dated with a time series – data are available back to 1973.