



Ward(s) Affected: All

## **Motion on Notice**

## **Report by the Director for Communities**

## **Executive Summary**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Lee Cowen and seconded by Councillor Catherine Arnold
- 1.2. Council is asked to deal with the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (under part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The Council is asked to determine the motion as set out in Annex A to this report.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Lee Cowen, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which affects the District.

3.3 There is nothing substantive within the motion that would cause its rejection under the terms of the Constitution.

3.4 The motion before Council is declaratory in nature, as defined in para 14.4.4 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it may be considered and debated by the Full Council without being automatically referred to a future meeting of Full Council, as defined in para 14.4.5 of the Council's Procedure Rules, or, being referred to the Executive or Committee without debate, as defined in paragraphs 14.4.1, 14.4.2 and 14.4.3 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

#### **4. Issues for consideration**

4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules and are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council procedure rules and the Council is asked to debate the motion under these rules accordingly.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 The motion is declaratory in nature and therefore there are no direct financial implications.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 As the motion is declaratory in nature, there are no direct legal implications arising from it.

#### **Background Papers**

None

#### **Officer Contact Details:-**

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### **Motion - Opposing Central Government plans for voter ID**

**Proposed by: Cllr Lee Cowen**

**Seconded by: Cllr Catherine Arnold**

#### **This Council notes:**

- The Queen's Speech earlier this year contained government proposals to require people to show identification including a photograph in order to vote in a General Election.
- Voting at elections is the cornerstone of democracy at both local and national level and all residents in Adur district should have the right to vote in local and national elections
- According to the Electoral Commission, 11 million UK citizens have no driving licence or passport and 3.5 million no access to photo ID at all
- Participation in elections should be encouraged in all those who are qualified regardless of age, ethnicity or income

#### **This Council further notes:**

- Central Government's own data shows that white people are most likely to hold one form of photo ID – 76% hold a full driving licence. But 38% of Asian people, nearly a third of people of mixed ethnicity (31%), and more than half of Black people (48%) do not
- Gypsies and Irish Travellers are much less likely than the average to have a passport.
- The claim is that voter ID will “tackle electoral fraud” yet there is no evidence of large-scale electoral fraud. In 2019 there were 47 million registered electors with 33 allegations of electoral personation with one caution and just one conviction
- When the Government trialled voter ID in 2019, around 2000 people were initially turned away from the polling station for not having ID, with around 750 of them not returning to vote
- The burden to provide “free voter cards” for people in this position would fall on local authorities, at an estimated cost of £20m per election
- Unnecessary barriers to voting are likely to reduce voter participation in elections, proper representation of all parts of the community and so legitimacy of those elected to office

#### **This council resolves:**

to note that the introduction of photo ID as a requirement to vote would be a threat to our democratic traditions and would be likely to reduce participation in our elections.