

# **Bath and North East Somerset Council**

## **Full Council meeting 16 March 2023**

### **Liberal Democrat Group Motion on Voter ID**

**To be proposed by Cllr Matt McCabe**

Council:

1. Notes that new Voter ID requirements, introduced by the Elections Act 2022, involve voters having to show photo ID before being issued with a ballot paper at all elections from May 2023 onwards.
2. Notes with concern that this new requirement creates a new barrier to residents exercising their democratic right to vote and may lead to some Bath and North East Somerset residents being disenfranchised.
3. Notes that a list of 'accepted' forms of photo ID has been published and that this includes fewer forms of ID held by younger and marginalised people.
4. Notes that voters can obtain a 'Voter Authority Certificate' from the Council if they do not have an 'accepted' form of photo ID.
5. Notes with concern the additional costs and administrative burden this will place on Electoral Services, and the risk of abuse towards poll workers from anyone denied a vote due to lack of ID.
6. Believes that this legislation is unnecessary, undemocratic and an egregious example of attempted voter suppression.

Council therefore:

7. Calls on Cabinet members and Council services to make every effort to communicate these new requirements, to avoid any resident being disenfranchised.
8. Calls on the government to urgently expand the list of 'accepted' forms of photo ID and to fully fund the costs to Councils of implementing this policy.
9. Requests that the Leader communicate Council's views to government and to our local MPs.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*