

3. Voter ID

Councillor Crooks (3 January 2023.)

- “1. That this Council, mindful of its previous opposition to Voter ID which it still believes discriminatory and unnecessary in Britain, notes:
 - a) how many people were turned away from voting when first it was required in Northern Ireland in 1985; and
 - b) that regulations and associated guidance is still being laid and drafted less than six months prior to the elections, which is in contravention of the established and accepted Gould Principle.
2. That this Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Government Minister responsible, to:
 - a) support the call of the Chair of the Local Government Association for new requirements to be introduced after elections in May 2023 so as to allow time for more publicity and staff training; and
 - b) call for a wider range of Photo ID to be permitted.
3. That this Council:
 - a) notes that a significant national communications campaign run by the Electoral Commission which will support key changes being introduced in May 2023, will commence from around the 9 January 2023, but that resources to support local campaigns were made available just days before Christmas 2022;
 - b) notes that the national application portal for residents to apply for Voter Authority Certificates will not be available until the 16 January 2023 at the earliest; and
 - c) requests that the Council's Returning Officer arrange for a comprehensive and proactive communication and resources programme, to supplement the national communications campaign as soon as is possible.”