

**Motion 1 – To ensure no resident of Lewes District is prevented from voting by any new Voter ID legislation.**

**To be proposed by Councillor Collier and seconded by Councillor Denis**

Preamble:

Electoral fraud is very rare in the UK. Out of 44.4 million votes cast in 2017, there was one conviction resulting from the 28 allegations of in-person voter fraud – that is 0.000063%. Adding a major barrier to democratic engagement off the back of this is a completely disproportionate response.

There is evidence that strict voter ID rules in the USA disproportionately disadvantage already marginalised groups. In the UK and USA the richer you are the more likely you have ID. Many residents who cannot afford to go on foreign holidays do not have passports, and those that cannot drive do not have driving licences.

Protocol 1, Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights provides for the right to elections performed by secret ballot, that are also free and that occur at regular intervals.

Here in the UK, 3.5 million residents do not have access to photo ID and 11 million residents do not have a passport or driving licence. In 2013/14, 1.7 million people lacked even a bank account. This makes mandatory voter ID – with no free provision – a barrier to many people exercising their right to vote.

Proposed Motion:

**We call on the Council to:**

Request that legal officers produce a report to Cabinet detailing the implications of Voter ID on residents in the district once the draft legislation and guidance for Voter ID has been published with the aim of identifying the mitigations that could be practically implemented to prevent the loss on any individual's democratic right and ensure that elections within Lewes District are free for all once the legislation comes into force.