

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 14

meeting date: 20 NOVEMBER 2018  
title: VOTER ID PILOT  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: MARSHAL SCOTT

### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the Council being selected to be a Voter ID pilot for the local elections next May 2019.

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the end of September we were approached by the Cabinet Office to ask if we could assist them and the Minister for the Constitution (Chloe Smith) with their aim to eventually implement Voter ID nationally in the most successful manner.
- 2.2 They would particularly welcome Ribble Valley stepping forward to be a pilot. We would broaden the coverage of pilots and our participation would ensure that our characteristics and the needs of our voters are reflected in the Electoral Commission and Cabinet Office Evaluations. These evaluations will inform the decision on how Voter ID will eventually be implemented.
- 2.3 They confirmed that any additional costs incurred by the Council through being a pilot will be fully reimbursed.

### 3 WHAT BEING A PILOT ENTAILS

- 3.1 The Cabinet Office's key milestones are set out in Annex A but the most pressing element which must be agreed before the end of December is the voter ID we would use in Ribble Valley for the forthcoming elections. The Voter ID Pilot for Ribble Valley will be a mixture of photo and non-photo ID. Put simply voters before being allowed to vote will have to produce either:

One item of photo ID or

Two items of non-photo ID

- 3.2 Annex B shows ID used at Bromley and Gosport Councils in May 2018. I am assured we will have some flexibility to design a pilot that is as voter friendly as it can be for Ribble Valley voters.
- 3.3 Clearly once the Voter ID has been agreed and the Order made communication and publicity will be critical to the success of the Pilot and detailed plans are already being drawn up to ensure this happens.

### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources - Any additional costs arising from the Voter ID Pilot will be met by the Cabinet Office.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – To enable the Pilot to go ahead the Cabinet Office will prepare a separate Order for each Pilot which must be signed by the Minister.
- Political - We will have to ensure that all voters are clear regarding the ID requirements needed to allow voters to be issued with a ballot paper at the elections in May 2019.
- Reputation – There is a risk that if voters are unable to vote they blame the Council.
- Equality and Diversity – The ID prescribed will hopefully ensure that no particular section of the community is discriminated against.

## 5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Cabinet Office have approached the Council to help them in designing a national scheme for the use of Voter ID at Elections. This is an opportunity to help produce a scheme that takes into account issues raised based upon our particular demographics.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PF70-18/MHS/AC  
9 November 2018

## Key Milestones

2018	
<b>end October/ start November</b>	Public announcement of pilots coordinated by the Cabinet Office (CO)
<b>w/c 29 October</b>	Discussions begin between pilot authorities and Cabinet Office to identify policy detail of each voter ID model and pilot
<b>w/c 5 November</b>	Bilateral discussions with pilots continue to finalise detail of each pilot's requirements
<b>by 12 November</b>	Working with CO each pilot to agree content of policy instructions
<b>October - November</b>	Working with CO, pilot authorities develop awareness raising plans and campaign materials. CO comms team to quality assure the plans
<b>12 - 23 November</b>	CO policy team instruct CO lawyers to draft the pilot Orders
<b>December</b>	Campaign plans signed off by Returning Officers
<b>18-19 December</b>	Council final review of changes of the Order
<b>20 December</b>	Formal consultation on final draft Orders with the EC and shared with AEA, SOLACE.
2019	
<b>w/c 28 January</b>	Minister for the Constitution signs the Orders and they are published on gov.uk
<b>January - April</b>	Launch of pilot communication campaigns
<b>February - April</b>	Panel interview assurance meetings with each pilot and EIP Board members. Details will be communicated in advance of the meeting.
<b>2 May</b>	Polling day
<b>2 May - August</b>	Evaluation of the pilots
<b>July - August</b>	The EC publishes its evaluation

## **ANNEX B**

### **List of ID accepted at polling stations in May 2018**

#### **MIXED MODELS**

##### **BROMLEY:**

##### **One of the following:**

- a passport issued by a Commonwealth country or a member state of the European Union;
- a photocard driving licence (including a provisional licence) issued in the United Kingdom or by a Crown Dependency, or by a member State of the European Union;
- an electoral identity card issued under section 13C (electoral identity card: Northern Ireland) of the Representation of the People Act 1983;
- a biometric immigration document issued in the United Kingdom in accordance with regulations made under section 5 of the UK Borders Act 2007;
- an identity card issued in the European Economic Area;
- an Oyster 60+ London Pass;
- a Freedom Pass (London);
- a PASS scheme card (national proof of age standards scheme);

##### **Or two of the following (one of which must show the registered address):**

- a valid bank or building society debit card or credit card;
- a mortgage statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- a bank or building society statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- a bank or building society cheque book;
- a credit card statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- a council tax demand letter or statement dated within 12 months of the date of the poll;
- a utility bill dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- a Form P45 or Form P60 dated within 12 months of the date of the poll;
- a poll card for the poll;
- a birth certificate;
- a marriage or civil partnership certificate;
- an adoption certificate;
- a firearms certificate granted under the Firearms Act 1968;
- the record of a decision on bail made in respect of the voter in accordance with section 5(1) of the Bail Act 1976;
- a driving licence (including a provisional licence) which is not in the form of a photocard.

Or, a certificate of identity.

**GOSPORT:****One of the following:**

- a passport issued by a Commonwealth country or a country within the European Economic Area;
- a photocard driving licence (including a provisional licence) issued in the United Kingdom or by a Crown Dependency, or by a member State of the European Union;
- an electoral identity card issued under section 13C (electoral identity card: Northern Ireland) of the Representation of the People Act 1983;
- a biometric immigration document issued in the United Kingdom in accordance with regulations made under section 5 of the UK Borders Act 2007;
- an identity card issued in the European Economic Area;
- an Oyster 60+ London Pass;
- Disclosure and Barring Service certificate showing the voter's registered address
- an identity card issued by the Ministry of Defence which bears a photograph of the elector.
- a defence privilege card issued by the Ministry of Defence
- a concessionary travel photo card issued by any local authority within the County of Hampshire.

**OR two of the following (one must show their registered address):**

- Driving licence without photo;
- a birth certificate;
- an adoption certificate;
- a marriage or civil partnership certificate;
- a valid bank or building society debit/credit card;
- Financial statement, such as a bank or mortgage statement (issued within 12 months of voting day);
- Council tax demand letter or statement (issued within 12 months of voting day);
- Utility bill (issued within 12 months of voting day);
- P2, P6, P9, P45 or P60 (issued within 12 months of voting day);
- Statement of benefits or entitlement to benefits. (issued within 12 months of voting day);