AGENDA ITEM 15 (b) - Elections Bill

Amendment

After campaign in the seventh paragraph insert a full stop then add:

'The City Council also urges the government to reconsider those measures which seek to change the oversight arrangements of the Electoral Commission and to maintain the Commission's current independence and its accountability to all parties elected to the parliaments of the United Kingdom. We resolve to do this by:'

The amended motion to therefore read:

Portsmouth City Council recognises the importance of ensuring that elections are fair and accessible for all voters.

The City Council notes that the Elections Bill is set to bring in major changes to national elections, including the introduction of compulsory photographic ID to vote.

The City Council believes that this change will act as a barrier to people voting and increase inequality in the electoral process.

The City Council notes with concern that currently 3.5 million people in the UK do not have any form of expensive photographic ID.

The City Council notes that these changes are estimated to cost the taxpayer £180 million and will create unnecessary bureaucracy to Councils.

The City Council believes that at a time when voter turnout is declining, we should be doing all we can to make it easier, not harder for people to vote.

Portsmouth City Council doesn’t want to see people being turned away at the ballot box because of these changes and resolves to support the #HandsOffOurVote campaign. The City Council also urges the government to reconsider those measures which seek to change the oversight arrangements of the Electoral Commission and to maintain the Commission's current independence and its accountability to all parties elected to the parliaments of the United Kingdom. We resolve to do this by:

1. Writing to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2. Writing to Portsmouth's local MPs asking them to raise these concerns in Parliament.

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Graham Heaney

Signed

Seconded by (Name) Councillor George Fielding

Signed