

COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 9

Motion from Councillors Scarborough and Emerson

Re: Transition to individual electoral registration

AMENDED MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

TRANSITION TO INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

Council notes:

The Electoral Commission's findings in its report into the transition to Individual Electoral Registration (IER) and, in particular, the finding that 1.9 million of the current entries on the electoral register are only being retained under the transitional arrangements from the previous household registration system, which represents 4% of all register entries. The Electoral Commission has previously estimated that the number of people not correctly registered at their current address is around 7.5 million across the UK.

The Government wants to end the transitional arrangements and fully implement IER 12 months early. However, the Electoral Commission has warned that there is "a risk that a considerable number of eligible voters could be removed from the registers before the significant set of polls scheduled for May 2016 if the transition to IER is brought forward".

Council believes:

That the Government's proposal for the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) remain poorly thought out and implemented, running the risk that voters could be disenfranchised as part of this process.

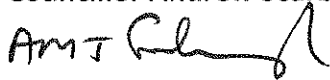
That the end of the transitional arrangements before IER is fully implemented should remain December 2016 as stated in law and should not be brought forward to December 2015.

Council resolves:

To take every possible step to ensure that as many local residents as possible are registered to vote.

To write to the Government to express our concerns and to ask for additional resources that ensure that local residents are not disenfranchised from the democratic process.

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Scarborough



Seconder: Councillor Brian Emerson



Originally submitted on 29th July 2015 and amended on 29th September 2015