

## **RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**COUNCIL – 12 JULY 2023**

#### **QUESTION B**

#### **Councillor Srivastava to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Poole:**

“It is reported that around 14000 people were unable to vote at the May Election in England because they did not have correct photo identification, according to the Electoral Commission.

Some people identified the new ID requirement as reason.

May I ask the leader of the council to update the Council if any assessment has been made for no of people in Rugby unable to vote due to ID changes.”

#### **Councillor Poole, Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:**

“Voter ID was introduced through the Elections 2022 and came into effect during the past May Election.

The Electoral Commission had responsibility for raising awareness of the introduction of voter ID and launched a national publicity campaign in January, including television, radio, and social media, which ran through to May.

The Council’s Returning Officer supported this campaign and significant work was undertaken in Rugby. This included hand delivering an information card to every registered voter in the borough, advertising on the Council’s social media channels and refuse vehicles, issued press releases, and the translation of the Electoral Commission’s Voter ID card into several languages. The Returning Officer also attended an interview with local radio to promote Voter ID.

All of these actions demonstrated a successful communications campaign, and this was reflected in the data shared with political parties in respect of the small number of voters that did not have the acceptable form of Voter ID at polling stations across Rugby.

Voter ID is one of the most significant changes ever within the electoral system and the Council’s Returning Officer will continue to assess and support the Electoral Commission’s responsibility towards Voter ID.”