

Councillor Mark Townsend will move

“The government has proposed that the Council is invited to be a pilot in 2018 whereby all voters in elections in Burnley will need to supply evidence to prove their identity if they are going to be allowed to vote at Polling Stations. This change is being introduced to deal with the potential issue of voter impersonation although there have been no proven examples of this crime within Burnley.

This change will significantly inconvenience all law abiding electors and, in some cases, will prevent them from voting because they will not be able to supply the relevant documentation. It will involve the Council in additional expensive bureaucracy and will also present serious operational problems for polling clerks who will be expected to check pieces of documentation while a queue of voters builds up.

On behalf of all law abiding electors in Burnley, this Council calls upon the Chief Executive to make these concerns known to the Electoral Commission and for the council to not be involved in the pilot. We also call upon our MP to make these concerns known to Ministers at the Department for Communities and Local Government.