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PRESS RELEASE

Mid Sussex District Council taking part in Voter ID pilots in 2019

Mid Sussex is set to take part in the next round of the 2019 Voter ID pilots along with 10 other local authorities across England.

The pilots will take place at the 2019 local elections, providing further insight to the Government into how best to secure the voting process.

At the last local elections in May, five local authorities took part in the first round of Voter ID pilots, which are being run by the Cabinet Office. The evaluation following the first trials showed they were a success, with the overwhelming majority of people able to cast their vote without a problem.

To verify that voters are who they say they are, each of the 11 local authorities in the 2019 pilot will test one of four models of Voter ID checks. In Mid Sussex, voters will be asked to present their polling cards as a means of identification.

Anyone who does not have their poll card with them on polling day will be asked to present another form of photo ID including a UK or EU photo-card driving licence (full or provisional) or a valid British, European or Commonwealth passport.

Local authorities will provide alternative methods of ID to individuals who do not have a specified form of ID, free of charge, ensuring that everyone who is registered has the opportunity to vote.

Mid Sussex Returning Officer Tom Clark said:

“We want to give everyone the maximum amount of notice that Mid Sussex is going to be one of the government pilot areas for voter ID. The government see this as a crucial step in ensuring the integrity of voting processes across the country and we are happy to be involved.”

Minister for the Constitution, Chloe Smith MP said:

“I am pleased to see Mid Sussex District Council is taking part in the 2019 pilots. Their participation will help us gain a deeper understanding of how voter ID will work on a wider scale ahead of a national rollout, and see what works best for voters.

“We want people to have confidence that our elections are safeguarded against any threat or perception of electoral fraud.

“People are already required to show ID to pick up a parcel from the Post Office, rent a car, or apply for benefits and this is a common sense next step to securing the integrity of our elections.”

To contact Mid Sussex electoral services about the 2019 Voter ID pilot or any other election matter, please call 01444 477003 or email elections@midsussex.gov.uk

ENDS

For more information please contact **Martin Faulconbridge on 01444 477478** or Martin.Faulconbridge@midsussex.gov.uk

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Notes to Editors

Eleven local authorities will be taking part in the 2019 Voter ID pilot.

Voters in Pendle, East Staffordshire and Woking will be asked to show photo ID before they are given their ballot papers.

Ribble Valley, Broxtowe, Derby, North Kesteven and Braintree will require voters to present either one form of photo ID or two forms of non-photo ID.

Mid Sussex, Watford and North West Leicestershire will test using poll cards as a means of identification.

In addition, Peterborough and Pendle will run a separate postal vote pilot, looking at the security of postal votes and providing additional guidance in postal vote packs.

Proxy voters in Peterborough will also be required to show ID before they can vote.

Northern Ireland has required paper ID to vote since 1985 and photo ID since 2003, without adverse effect on turnout or participation.