

Meeting of the City Council

7 December 2022

Report title	Motion on Notice	
Referring body/person	Councillor Linda Leach Councillor Ian Brookfield	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	N/A	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

Consider the motion received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 50 minutes.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Council to consider the motion received:

a. St John Ambulance

Councillor Linda Leach will move the following motion:

“Wolverhampton is a city proud of all our volunteers and communities – throughout the recent pandemic this council has been humbled by the dedication and support of our residents who have given their time freely to support other people in this city.

City of Wolverhampton Council wishes to formally recognise and congratulate St John Ambulance as 2022 marks the centenary of the first St John Cadet Unit in England. Throughout the pandemic the Cadets have supported the NHS Vaccination Programme, continued to deliver training through online sessions and provided invaluable support to our communities. This has supported some of the most vulnerable people in Wolverhampton.

This council also notes the achievement of the Badgers programme this year celebrating its 35-year anniversary, recognising the value young people bring to our communities and encouraging children to understand the importance of learning new skills, staying safe and supporting the communities in which they live.

In celebrating St John Ambulance’s success, this Council will continue to encourage and support the expansion of the voluntary sector in Wolverhampton for everyone including young people.”

b. Photo ID

Councillor Ian Brookfield will move the following motion:

“The Elections Act 2022 was passed by Parliament in April 2022, requiring voters in Great Britain to show photo ID before being issued with a ballot paper at UK elections and local elections in England.

This Council believes that the requirement of the Act for voters to show photo ID before being issued with a ballot paper is unnecessary; it addresses a problem that doesn’t exist.

This Council is committed to encouraging greater participation in elections and believes that the requirement for electors to show photo identification when voting will be a deterrent to voters who don’t possess valid photo ID.

With the city set for ‘all out local elections’ in May 2023, the short timetable and lack of clarity about the implementation of this proposal could cause many Wulfrunian

voters to be disenfranchised and exacerbate the burden on already overstretched Council officers.

The Council instructs its Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge him not to implement this policy for the local elections in May 2023 and for him to consider scrapping this unnecessary proposal altogether.

Should the Minister refuse to respond positively to the Council's request, the Chief Executive is urged to launch a comprehensive publicity campaign with regard to promoting the changes and the option for voting by post."