

Amended Motion to Council, July 29th, 2015

Amendment to be moved by Councillor Nathan Desmond (amended text shown in *italics*)

Individual Electoral Registration

Council notes

- 1) the Electoral Commission's finding, in its report into the transition to Individual Electoral Registration, that 1.9m of the current entries on electoral registers are only being retained under the transitional arrangements. This represents 4% of all register entries, which are at risk of being removed from the final registers.
- 2) that, should these 1.9m individuals be lost, they will add significantly to the Electoral Commission's estimate of 7.5m who are "not correctly registered".
- 3) that the Government has made an Order which would end the transitional arrangements twelve months earlier than initially planned, to be reflected in the composition of the registers of December 2015, rather than December 2016.
- 4) that the Electoral Commission has cautioned against such a move, because it believes that the result will be a greater number of the 1.9m losing their vote than if the original timetable was retained.

Council believes

- 5) *that the Parliamentary boundary review is long overdue and needed in order to achieve greater equality of representation between different areas in the UK; and that it is important for that review to be based on accurate registers which do not include "carried forward" electors, who have already had several opportunities to confirm their registration and who will have further chances to do so before December 2015; and*

Council congratulates

- 6) Wyre Forest's Electoral Registration team, which has increased the number of individuals on the 2015 register to 78,833, an increase of 567

over 2014, and notes that in Wyre Forest there are at most 269 electors (0.3%) who would be removed from the register in December 2015.

However Council is concerned about any reduction in the number of individuals eligible to vote and, therefore:

- 7) *welcomes £3 million allocated by the Government to assist councils which have a much higher proportion of "carried forward" electors than Wyre Forest; and*
- 8) *urges other councils to follow Wyre Forest's lead in taking steps to reduce the number of such electors, by pressing them to respond to the canvass and to confirm their registration at the earliest opportunity.*