

**Council**

**19 July 2021**

**Motions (3 total)**

<b>Motion A</b>	<b>Proposed by: Councillor Wilkinson</b>	<b>Seconded by: Councillor Baker</b>
	<p><b>Call to scrap the Government’s planning white paper</b></p> <p>Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The significant concerns expressed by communities, including at the recent by-election in Chesham &amp; Amersham, over the Conservative Government’s Planning Reforms.</li><li>• The concessions already made to Conservative backbench MPs over concerns about the impact of planning deregulation on home counties.</li><li>• Local resident concerns about their reduced ability to object to building works under Permitted Development Rights which have been extended under this Government.</li><li>• Widespread concern and condemnation of the Planning White Paper proposals across Local Government, the Planning and Architecture Sector and organisations concerned with protecting green spaces and heritage.</li><li>• The high environmental standards being pursued as part of the Golden Valley development at West Cheltenham.</li></ul> <p>Council is concerned that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Government is not using the Planning White Paper to improve environmental outcomes from planning and building standards fast enough. This is at odds with the declaration of a climate emergency by many local authorities, including Cheltenham Borough Council.</li><li>• Government proposals to deregulate planning will water down the rights of residents to influence development where they live.</li><li>• The Government’s proposals will put at risk the character of Gloucestershire’s city, towns and villages.</li></ul> <p>Council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents have the right to a say over developments that will change the area they live in;</li><li>• Local councils, in consultation with their businesses and residents, are best placed to understand the issues in their area and respond with a housing strategy tailored to that area.</li></ul> <p>Council calls for the Leader to write to the Government to scrap its</p>	

	<p>Planning White Paper and instead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a wholesale review of Permitted Development Rights;</li> <li>• Introduce rules which enable local areas to achieve much higher environmental standards in planning;</li> <li>• Make the Planning Inspectorate more accountable to local people; and</li> <li>• Implement stronger controls to ensure Ministers making decisions on planning applications are not connected either financially or personally with the developers or related parties to the application.</li> </ul>	
<b>Motion B</b>	<b>Proposed by: Councillor Willingham</b>	<b>Seconded by: Councillor Clark</b>
	<p>This council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The UK Government revealed in the Queen’s speech, on 11 May, its intention to introduce laws requiring all eligible voters to show voter ID in all future elections.</li> <li>* The UK Government claims this is to tackle electoral fraud.</li> </ul> <p>This council further notes, however, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Electoral Commission has stated that there is “no evidence of large-scale electoral fraud.”</li> <li>* That between 2017 and 2019, there were just 6 convictions and 12 police cautions relating to electoral fraud – the majority of which did not relate to ID fraud.</li> <li>* That nearly 10 per cent of eligible voters do not have the necessary identification at present, and that previous trials of voter ID saw many hundreds of voters disenfranchised – including 750 people during the 2019 trials.</li> </ul> <p>This council believes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The proposed legislation is a solution to a problem that doesn’t exist and only serves to make it harder for some sections of Britain’s electorate to vote – most notably minority groups and young voters.</li> <li>* The greater priority should be encouraging voter registrations within those groups that are typically under-represented during elections.</li> </ul> <p>This council therefore resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Write to the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Cabinet Office outlining this Council’s firm belief that the voter ID reforms proposed in the Queen’s speech are an illiberal barrier to democratic</li> </ul>	

	<p>participation.</p> <p>* Work with scrutiny to investigate ways the Borough Council can encourage more people to participate in future elections in Cheltenham – with a particular focus on the next Borough Council elections in 2022 and 2024.</p>	
<b>Motion C</b>	<b>Proposed by: Councillor Brownsteen</b>	<b>Seconded by: Councillor Lewis</b>
	<p><b>Call to adopt 20mph maximum speeds in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix</b></p> <p>This Council believes that 20 is plenty in residential areas.</p> <p>This Council agrees with and supports the UK Government’s recent endorsement of The Stockholm Declaration, which stipulates in Resolution 11 that a council should “mandate a maximum road travel speed of [20mph] in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix...except where strong evidence exists that higher speeds are safe.”</p> <p>This Council calls on Gloucestershire County Council, as the Local Highways Authority, to consult the county’s District Councils, Parish Councils and communities to identify all the roads which should adopt a 20mph speed limit no later than 30 April 2025 and to make significant progress towards realising these changes in tandem - establishing 20mph limits in identified places quickly if communities agree.</p> <p>This Council calls on Gloucestershire County Council to provide the necessary funding to achieve the goal of making our residents safe across Gloucestershire.</p>	