

MOTION ON NOTICE

Full Council | Tuesday, 05 April 2022

Use of First Past the Post for General Elections

- 1.** This Council notes that the UK is the only country in Europe to still use First Past the Post (FPTP) for General Elections aside from Belarus.
- 2.** Created in the 1800's when the electoral choice was between the aristocratic Tories and Whigs and women were denied the right to vote, FPTP is structurally undemocratic. It means millions of votes do not matter, millions of votes are wasted, both "safe seats" and tactical voting are commonplace, and seats won in Westminster often bear little relationship to votes cast. In short, it is an archaic rigged system. How can Britain of the 2020's move forward when, in some constituencies, the same party has won in every election since those constituencies were created in 1832?
- 3.** There is an alternative voting system. It is called proportional representation (PR). More than 80 nations around the world already elect their legislatures this way, including in Scotland, in Wales and in the Republic of Ireland. Why? Because it is far fairer and proportional.
- 4.** This Council therefore calls on the Westminster government to reject First Past the Post, end minority rule, and support the introduction of a form of Proportional Representation for Parliamentary General Elections in which all votes count equally and seats match votes.

Councillor M H Charlesworth (Proposer)

Councillor Mrs L M Broadley (Seconder)

The above motion was duly received by the Head of Law & Democracy on 27 March 2022 in accordance with Rule 14, Section 1 of Part 4 of the Constitution of the Council.