

## **Council Meeting**

**27<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

### **Motion submitted by Councillor Baker under Council Procedure Rule 14**

#### **Supporting Proportional Representation for UK General Elections**

This Council notes that:

The First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.

In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use the archaic, single-round FPTP system for general elections while Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer, and greener.

PR ensures that all votes count, have equal value, and that seats won match the votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.

MPs better reflecting their communities leads to improved decision-making, wider participation, and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote provided one party with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland and should be extended to elections to the Westminster parliament.

**Council therefore resolves to request that the Chief Executive writes to the relevant minister in the Cabinet Office urging the bringing forward of legislation to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general elections.**

**Seconded by Councillor Evans**