

Section 1: About the service area

Your name:	Christie Tims
Your service area:	Elections
Your assistant director:	Christie Tims
Your cabinet member:	Leader Doug Pullen

Section 2: Overview

Name of service/policy you are assessing:	Introduction of Elections Act 2022 – P1 for May 2023
Detail of proposed change:	<p>Introduction of Voter ID for polling stations – Elections Act 2022 and Voter ID Regulations 2022.</p> <p>Improved accessibility for polling stations and to vote independently.</p> <p>Introduction of Voter Identify Certificates (VAC)</p>
Main users of your service/policy	All registered electors

Section 3: About the proposed change

The new legislation has been introduced to take effect during the May 2023 elections. The national VAC application portal went live on 16 Jan 2023.

All registered electors (or their proxys) are now required to present approved Photo ID at a polling station in order to be provided with a ballot paper.

In addition, returning officers are now required to consider any measure which assists voters with additional needs in order to cast their vote.

Section 4: How will your plans impact on customers with protected characteristics?

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Negative impact	Mitigating measures
Age ranges (all working age claimants)	<p>Young voters may have access to PASS accredited ID, people of working age are likely to have a driver's licence or passport, elderly may have accredited bus pass.</p> <p>Polling stations are located close to the residential area, with adjacent parking and accessible entry points. Where space allows, seating is available for elderly voters to rest.</p>	<p>Young people may not have suitable forms of ID, similarly older people may not have switched to photographic forms of ID.</p>	<p>All voters can apply for postal vote, appoint a proxy with suitable form of ID to vote in their place or apply for a free VAC as an acceptable form of ID for election purposes. Applications are made online however local support is available from the Councils customer service team to complete an application on their behalf.</p> <p>A national campaign has been launched to raise awareness</p>
Disability (physical, sensory or learning)	<p>Polling stations are located close to the residential area, with adjacent parking and accessible entry points. Where space allows, seating is available for those voters who need to rest.</p> <p>Online user guides are available in a variety of formats</p>	<p>Photo ID may present an additional barrier to voters with disabilities.</p>	<p>Communication plans are geared towards different user groups to assist in understanding the new regulations. All voters can apply for postal vote, appoint a proxy with suitable form of ID to vote in their place or apply for a free VAC as an acceptable form of ID for election purposes. Some postal voters with limited capacity can also apply for a postal vote that does not require a signature. Consultation will be undertaken with local groups to assess additional requirements to meet local needs.</p> <p>Any disabled person may have a person over 18 to accompany hem and support them in casting their vote.</p>
Carers or the people cared for (dependants)			<p>All voters can apply for postal vote, appoint a proxy with suitable form of ID to vote in their place or apply for a free VAC as an acceptable form of ID for election purposes. Some postal voters with limited capacity can also apply for a postal vote that does not require a signature.</p>
Gender/sex		<p>There may be additional issues for female electors in disclosing their Identity.</p>	<p>In any event a VAC can be provided on an up-to-date photo of the elector.</p>

		Photo ID must reflect how the elector presents on the day, which may not be as they are recorded on some official documentation.	Privacy booths (including mirrors) will be available at each polling station. Care will be taken in ensuring female and male polling staff are available at all locations.
Transgender/gender reassignment	VAC provides a valid form of ID for those in process but not yet fully re assigned.	There may be additional issues for female electors in disclosing their Identity. Photo ID must reflect how the elector presents on the day, which may not be as they are recorded on some official documentation.	In any event a VAC can be provided on an up-to-date photo of the elector. Privacy booths (including mirrors) will be available at each polling station. Care will be taken in ensuring female and male polling staff are available at all locations.
Race (includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality)	n/a	.	
Gypsies and travelers			Communication plans are geared towards different user groups to assist in understanding the new regulations.
Refugees / asylum seekers			Communication plans are geared towards different user groups to assist in understanding the new regulations.
Sexual orientation	n/a		
Marriage and civil partnerships	n/a		
Religion or belief (includes lack of belief)		There may be additional issues for female electors in disclosing their identity based on the requirements of their religion.	Privacy booths (including mirrors) will be available at each polling station. Care will be taken in ensuring female and male polling staff are available at all locations.
Pregnancy and maternity	n/a		

Other (please specify)			

Section 5: Can you justify and evidence, or lessen any impact?

Justification/evidence in relation to the proposed changes:

These are legislative changes we must adopt, mitigations have been reviewed by O&S and the elections project plan allows for consultation and awareness raising prior to the elections in May.

Section 6: Action plan

Included in the elections timetable and the Elections Act Project Plan.

Section 6: Record your actions

Sent this to the Equalities Team for publication on www.lichfielddc.gov.uk	YES
Date completed: 21 February 2023	