



## Voter ID toolkit for Parishes & Town Councils – March 2019

### Background

Braintree District Council has agreed to take part in the second phase of Voter ID trials in relation to the Braintree District's Town and Parish elections on 02 May 2019.

This means that every elector voting at a polling station in the Braintree District will need to show either one piece of photo ID or two pieces of non-photo ID before they are given their ballot paper.

All electors will be required to present means of identification from those prescribed by the Cabinet Office. Anyone not providing the correct ID will not be able to vote.

Any elector who does not have a means of identification from the prescribed list will have the opportunity to contact the Electoral Services Department at Braintree District Council and apply for an Electoral Identity Document.

All the details residents need to be aware of can be found on our website at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)

We will also be informing the public in numerous ways such as newspaper adverts, bus shelters, direct mail to all households, as well as digital advertising including social media.

## Key messages

- You need to bring ID to vote in local elections at polling stations on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019
- You need to bring the correct form of ID – check the list at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)
- You can bring either one piece of photo ID or two pieces on non-photo ID. One piece on non-photo ID must have the voter's current address – check the list
- Don't worry if you haven't got any ID or any of the ID listed – you can apply for a free Electoral Identity Document - just call our Elections team who will be able to help you.
- All ID documents must be originals or a certified copy.
- Full list available at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)

## How can you get involved?

Please help us spread the message.

You can do this in a number of ways.

Social media. We would really appreciate your support by sharing our messages on your own social media channels to help inform our residents about voter ID.

We have provided you with template social media messages which you can find below that you can copy and paste on your own channels. You can use all the templates, or choose the ones you prefer.

All of the images can be found attached to our original email. You can also retweet and share our posts about the campaign from Braintree District Council's social media channels.

We have also prepared some text you can use on your website and newsletter, as well as poster/advert, which you are welcome to use.

**Please note: This toolkit is for use in March 2019. We will send you an updated toolkit at the end of March with our phase 2 messages, which will be for use throughout April 2019. If you wish to use this toolkit, please do not edit or change the content of the template messages for social media below, or the promotional material attached in our email. This is so we can all make sure we are putting out the same message to avoid confusion.**

## Twitter

We have designed a Twitter header which you could add at the top of your Twitter profile. *(You can download this image on the email attachment titled 'Twitter header')*.



Twitter Message	Image
<p>Braintree District Council, along with 10 other local authorities in England is participating in the Cabinet Office's voter ID trial to provide the Cabinet Office with further insight into how best to strengthen and secure the voting process.</p> <p>Voters in the Braintree district will need to bring ID when they vote at polling stations on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. Please help us spread the message.</p> <p>Got a question or want to find out more? See here: <a href="http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid">www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid</a></p>	 <p><i>(You can download this image on the email attachment)</i></p>

You'll need to bring ID to your polling station when you vote in the 2nd May local election. You can bring one piece of photo ID, or two pieces of non-photo ID. Full details available at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

**IMPORTANT VOTING CHANGE:** You need to bring ID to vote in local elections at your polling station on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Below is the list of what ID will be accepted...

Read more > [braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

We need your help to spread the message that if you live in the Braintree district, you will need to bring ID to vote at your polling station on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

More information available at [braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

You need to bring ID to vote in the local elections at your polling station on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

Further information can be found on Braintree District Council's website: [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

You need to bring ID to vote in local elections at your polling station on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 – this can either be one piece of photo ID or two pieces on non-photo ID.

Check the full list of what types of ID will be accepted at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

#### RETWEET TO HELP US SPREAD THE MESSAGE

If you live in the Braintree district, you need to bring ID to vote at your polling station for local elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

Everything you need to know can be found at [braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

## Facebook

We have designed a header for Facebook which can sit at the top of your profile. *(You can download this image on the email attachment titled 'Facebook header').*

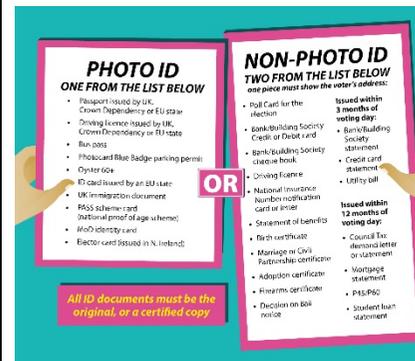


Facebook Message	Media
<p>Braintree District Council, along with 10 other local authorities in England, is participating in the Cabinet Office's trial, to provide the Cabinet Office with further insight into how best to strengthen and secure the voting process.</p> <p>This means that at the local elections on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, you will need to bring ID to vote at your polling station. This can either be one piece of photo ID or two pieces of non-photo ID.</p> <p>All the details can be found at <a href="http://braintree.gov.uk/voterid">braintree.gov.uk/voterid</a> including what ID will be accepted.</p>	 <p><i>(You can download this image on the email attachment)</i></p>

In order to vote at your polling station in the Braintree District, you will need to show either one piece of photo ID or two pieces of non-photo ID before you are given your ballot paper at the local elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. See below a list of what IT will be accepted.

Please note that this does not affect postal votes.

More details at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

Voters in the Braintree district will need to bring ID to polling stations when they vote on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Please help us spread the word.

Got a question about using ID or want to find out more? See here: [braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

You'll need to bring the right ID to vote at your polling station in the Braintree District elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

If you've lost your poll card, don't worry. Just call the Braintree District Council Elections Team on 01376 552525 to get your replacement by 5pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

No ID? Call Braintree District Council's Elections Team on 01376 552525 to apply for a free electoral identity document instead. Everything you need to know can be found at [braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

If you live in the Braintree district, you need to bring ID to vote at your polling station on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

Tag your friends & family below to help us spread the message.

More information available at [braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

We need your help to spread the message about voter ID - you need to bring ID to vote in local elections at your polling station on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

This can be either one piece of photo ID or two pieces of non-photo ID, such as a driving licence, passport, and your poll card counts as one piece of non-photo ID!

Take a look on Braintree District Council's website for all the information and what types of ID will be accepted – [braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://braintree.gov.uk/voterid)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

Voters across the Braintree district will need to show either one piece of photo ID or two pieces of non-photo ID before they can vote in person, at polling stations at the local elections on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. Voters without any approved ID can apply for a free Electoral Identity Document – you can do this by contacting Braintree District Council's Elections Team by calling 01376 552525.

Postal voting will not be affected.

For more information about this important change, visit [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid), call 01376 552525 or email [voterid@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:voterid@braintree.gov.uk)



*(You can download this image on the email attachment)*

**Website text:**

Braintree District Council is taking part in the Cabinet Office Voter ID pilot at the local elections.

This means voters who live in the Braintree district will be asked to bring one piece of photo ID or two pieces of non-photo ID at polling stations before their ballot paper is issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

The full list of types of ID that will be accepted can be found on Braintree District Council's website: [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterID](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterID)

Any resident concerned about finding the correct ID is encouraged to contact the Elections Team at Braintree District Council on 01376 552525 or email [voterid@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:voterid@braintree.gov.uk). Anyone without the correct identification can apply to Braintree District Council for an Electoral Identity Document free of charge. Residents can apply for one of these until 5pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 and collect it from Causeway House by 9pm.

More information about Voter ID is available on the Braintree District Council website at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)

**Newsletter text:**

You need to bring ID to vote at polling stations for the local elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May – this can either be one piece of photo ID such as a passport or driving licence, or two pieces of non-photo ID such as your poll card, debit/credit card or Council Tax bill.

The full list of what types of ID that will be accepted can be found at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)

Don't have anything on the list? Don't worry. **Contact the Elections Team at Braintree District Council** who will be able to help you. You may qualify for a free electoral identity document which will be issued by Braintree District Council. You can either call 01376 552525 or email [voterid@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:voterid@braintree.gov.uk)

\*Please note that this does not affect postal votes.\*

More information about voter ID is available on the Braintree District Council website at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Is this a permanent change to the voting process?**

No. Voter ID is a trial being undertaken by The Cabinet Office.

### **Why is Braintree District Council taking part?**

Braintree District Council has been chosen by The Cabinet Office to test one of their trial schemes. Residents will be playing an important part in the development of how best to ensure the security of the voting process across the country.

### **Is there a problem in our district with voter fraud?**

There is no evidence of voter fraud or abuse of the electoral process in the Braintree District. However, this puts us in a good position to trial voter ID to ensure that a solution to issues elsewhere can be effectively used in a location such as ours.

### **What type of ID will be accepted?**

ID that will be accepted will be either:

- **one** piece of photo ID, (e.g, passport, photo-driving licence, bus pass)
- Or **two** pieces of non-photo ID, (such as poll card, utility bill, bank/building/credit card statement, debit/credit card).

More forms of ID will be accepted and is published on our website at [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)

### **Can I show a copy of my ID on my phone or other device?**

No, sorry. Braintree District Council can only accept a paper version.

### **What if I am unable to provide any of the documentation?**

If you do not have any forms of the required ID, you will be able to apply for a free **electoral identity document** from Braintree District Council. Please call the Elections Team on 01376 552525 or visit [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid) for more information.

### **What if my photo ID is out of date?**

That's fine, provided that you will bear a similarity/resemblance to the photo.

**What will happen if I don't have any ID when I visit the Polling Station to vote?**

If you forget to bring your ID, you will be allowed to leave the Polling Station and return with your ID. Anyone not providing the required ID will not be able to cast their vote.

**Does Voter ID trial apply to postal votes?**

No. The Braintree District trial does not include testing any postal voting processes. This is being trialled by other councils. Your postal vote arrangements have not changed.

**How will the trials be evaluated and when will the results be published?**

The Electoral Commission will carry out an evaluation of the Cabinet Office's trials and the findings will be published in the summer of 2019.

**It says on the approved ID list that poll cards are an accepted piece of ID. What if I have lost my poll card?**

Call the Braintree District Council Elections Team now on 01376 552525. Replacement poll card request lines close at 5pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

**I'm a proxy voter for someone else. What ID do I need?**

The proxy has to provide ID for themselves, not for the elector they are representing.

**I have a question about voter ID in the Braintree district – who do I need to contact?**

You will need to contact Braintree District Council. You can do this by either:

- Email [voterid@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:voterid@braintree.gov.uk)
- Visit [www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/voterid)
- Call 01376 552525
- Message the Council via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/braintreedistrictcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/braintreedistrictcouncil)) or Twitter ([www.twitter.com/braintreedc](http://www.twitter.com/braintreedc))

ENDS

Issued Monday 18 February 2019