

Our Home Our Vote Campaign for votes for all

Council Model Motion

Councillors are encouraged to amend the model motion as applicable to their local area and, where appropriate, include specific commitments.

[Motion Version 1: Long Version](#)

[Motion Version 2: Short Version](#)

Motion Version 1: Long Version

Council meeting: dd/mm/yyyy

Council Motion Name: Extension of the Franchise

Proposed by Cllr X

Seconded by Cllr Y

The Council notes

The right to vote is the most important foundation of our democratic system and no one should be excluded from that right.

According to the 2021 census, [one in six usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK](#). The [latest research](#) shows that over 1.2 million of these residents have no right to vote at all across England and Northern Ireland. A further 4.4 million residents across the UK have no right to vote in parliamentary elections. These residents live, work and call the UK **[and/or insert local authority area]** their home.

Scotland and Wales have already implemented residence-based voting rights, where all lawful residents have the right to vote in local and devolved elections.

The Government's policy paper "[Restoring trust in our democracy](#)" proposes to introduce multiple necessary democratic reforms, notably the extension of the franchise to 16-17 year olds for all elections. However, these current proposals do not include residence-based voting rights.

Over [50% of people agree that every resident, no matter where they are from, should have the right to vote at least in local elections](#).

The Council welcomes

That all residents, no matter their nationality, call **this local authority** their home and bring significant value to the area.

That [21 local authorities across England have passed motions asking for the right to vote to be extended to all residents in local elections.](#)

The Council expresses concern that

Over 1 million residents who work, study, and contribute in many ways across England and Northern Ireland have no right to vote at all.

[XXX] residents do not have the right to vote in our local authority

Current voter eligibility remains complex; causing confusion and reducing voter turnout in local elections amongst migrant voters, with only 66% of EU and Commonwealth eligible voters registering to vote.

The Council commits to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the relevant shadow frontbenchers requesting that the franchise for local elections be extended to all qualifying foreign nationals in England and Northern Ireland in the upcoming Elections Bill in line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales.
- Write to the local Member(s) of Parliament asking for their support ensuring that the upcoming Elections Bill includes the extension of franchise to all residents in local elections.
- Deliver training to councillors and relevant officers on the changes brought by the Elections Act 2022 so that residents can be accurately informed about their voting rights.
- Work collaboratively with voluntary sector organisations in our local authority to reach residents about voter eligibility rules and how to vote.
- Promote voter registration and photo ID requirements to residents at citizenship ceremonies, events, and other council communication channels.

Motion Version 2: Short Version

Council meeting: dd/mm/yyyy

Council Motion Name: Extension of the Franchise

Proposed by Cllr X

Seconded by Cllr Y

This Council notes:

- The right to vote is the most important foundation of our democratic system. Yet, we do not yet have a universal franchise.
- That all residents, no matter their nationality, bring significant value to the area.
- [One in six usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK.](#)
- Over 1.2 million residents across England and Northern Ireland do not have a right to vote at all and 4.4 million residents do not have the right to vote in General Elections.
- Xxx residents do not have the right to vote in [local authority name]
- Scotland and Wales have extended the franchise to allow all residents with lawful immigration status to vote.
- Over [50% of people agree that every resident, no matter where they are from, should have the right to vote at least in local elections.](#)
- [21 local authorities across England have passed motions asking for the right to vote to be extended to all residents in local elections.](#)

This Council Resolves:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the relevant shadow frontbenchers requesting that the franchise for local elections be extended to all qualifying foreign nationals in England and Northern Ireland in the upcoming Elections Bill in line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales.
- Write to the local Member(s) of Parliament asking for their support ensuring that the upcoming Elections Bill includes the extension of franchise to all residents in local elections.
- Deliver training to councillors and relevant officers on the changes brought by the Elections Act 2022 so that residents can be accurately informed about their voting rights.
- Work collaboratively with voluntary sector organisations in our local authority to reach residents about voter eligibility rules and how to vote.
- Promote voter registration and photo ID requirements to residents at citizenship ceremonies, events, and other council communication channels.