

#OURHOMEOURVOTE

Residence-Based Voting Campaign

Council's 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 Elections Act 2022 is a major piece of national legislation with local implications for the residents of this local authority, including the use of mandatory photographic voter ID at the polling station, changes to overseas voting and voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens.

According to the 2021 census, [one in six usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK](#). They live, work, study, make use of public services, and call the UK their home. Many foreign-born residents of this local authority from EU and Commonwealth countries can vote in our local elections. However, over 1 million residents across England and Northern Ireland do not have a right to vote.

Scotland and Wales implemented residence-based voting rights where all residents with lawful immigration status have the right to vote in local and devolved national elections.

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 the voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens who entered the UK before 2021 will be maintained through the Elections Act.

That [20 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

EU citizens who enter the UK from the 1st of January 2021 and are not covered by bilateral voting rights treaties (currently only active with Poland, Luxembourg, Portugal, and Spain) have lost their voting and candidacy rights in local elections following the implementation of the Elections Act. This has created an unequal situation where some EU citizens have the right to vote where others do not.

The complexity in voting eligibility will cause confusion and will reduce voter turnout in local elections amongst migrant voters, a group already under-registered compared to British voters.

A burden will be placed on Local Authorities managing the removal of a significant number of EU citizens from the electoral register. This may result in some being wrongfully removed from the electoral register.

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 line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales.
- Write to the local Member(s) of Parliament asking for their support in Parliament to see the right to vote extended to all residents in local elections.
- Deliver training to councillors and relevant officers on the changes brought by the Elections Act 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.
- Continue promoting voter registration and photo ID requirements to residents at citizenship ceremonies, events, and other 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:

- 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 million residents across England and Northern Ireland do not have a right to vote.
- 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.](#)
- [20 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 line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales.
- Write to the local Member of Parliament asking for their support in Parliament to see the right to vote extended to all lawful residents in local elections.
- Deliver training to councillors and relevant officers on the changes brought by the Elections Act 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.
- Continue promoting voter registration and photo ID requirements to residents at citizenship ceremonies, events, and other communication channels.