

Notice of Motion

Motion to be moved by Councillor Ieronimo:

Council notes that:

- The Liberal Democrats in Hull welcome the UK Government's announcement to reduce the voting age from 18 to 16 for all UK elections, bringing England in line with Scotland and Wales and a policy change that we have long been calling for.
- Many 16 and 17 year-olds in Hull are already active citizens. Studying, working, volunteering, and paying taxes, yet have no formal say in how decisions affecting them are made.
- Hull City Council already operates a Voice and Influence Strategy and has engaged thousands of young people in shaping the Children and Young People Plan 2025/30, demonstrating strong local foundations for deeper youth participation.
- Engaging young people early in the democratic process helps to build lifelong participation and trust in public institutions.

Council believes that:

- Lowering the voting age to 16 will strengthen democracy and ensure that young people's voices are represented.
- Local Authorities like Hull have a key role in supporting democratic education and participation among young residents.
- Practical local action now will help ensure a smooth and inclusive transition when the new voting age is introduced.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the principle of votes at 16 and welcome the Government's commitment to extending the franchise to 16 and 17 year-olds.
2. As the Leader to write to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and Hull's Members of Parliament to express this Council's support for the reform.
3. Ask the Executive to work with local schools; colleges; the Hull Youth Council, and community organisations to: (i) promote understanding of local democracy and voter registration among 16 and 17 year olds, and (ii) encourage participation through youth forums, mock elections, and civic education initiatives.

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4. Ask the Executive to request Officers to prepare a brief report on Hull City Council's readiness for the lower voting age, including outreach and registration plans, to be presented to Cabinet and the Overview Scrutiny Management Committee by their April, 2026, meetings.
5. Ask the Executive to explore the development of a series of Citizens' Assemblies in Hull, representative forums where residents come together to discuss key local issues and make recommendations to the Council, with a particular focus on engaging young people and first-time voters to strengthen participation and trust in local democracy.

Sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/16-year-olds-to-be-given-right-to-vote-through-seismic-government-election-reforms>

<https://hullsendlocaloffer.org.uk/downloads/file/143/cypfs-voice-and-influence-strategy> -

[:~:text=Hull%27s%20Voice%20and%20Influence%20strategy,and%20decisions%20that%20affect%20them.](https://hullsendlocaloffer.org.uk/downloads/file/143/cypfs-voice-and-influence-strategy)

<https://electoral-reform.org.uk/mps-vote-to-cut-short-first-past-the-posts-imposition-on-mayors/>