

COUNCIL – 15 OCTOBER 2025

YOUTH COUNCIL QUESTIONS

Questions to Portfolio Holders / Committee Chairs

- (A) How does the council plan to encourage young people to vote and educate themselves on the significance of voting, taking into account that the voting age is due to drop?

Answer: Councillor Richard Henry

The Government's Policy Paper, "Restoring trust in our democracy: Our strategy for modern and secure elections" (July 2025), outlines plans to lower the voting age to 16 and the registration age to 14. It commits to working with partners, including local and devolved governments, the Electoral Commission, schools, colleges, charities, and youth groups to prepare for these changes. Practical steps will support the education sector, and the outcome of the independent Curriculum and Assessment Review (due later this year) will be considered.

Beyond education, youth engagement is central to the Government's Youth Strategy, co-designed with young people. It recognises the importance of empowering young people to shape their communities. Youth and civil society groups are ready to help raise awareness and support the success of votes at 16.

While implementation will require significant effort, this Council is committed to supporting the Electoral Registration Officer and working with local partners to promote democratic engagement and encourage electoral participation.