

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****EU CITIZENS AND LOCAL ELECTIONS**

This Council notes the excellent work done by the Electoral Services Department to inform all the city's households of the right of residents to vote.

This Council requests that the Electoral Registration Officer, in addition to the current practice of general household notification, works with the Council's Communication Team to run a campaign informing potentially underrepresented communities, including non-UK EU citizens, of their right to both vote and stand in the local election to be held on 2nd May this year.

Proposed by: Councillor Littman

Seconded by: Councillor Phillips

Supporting Information:

Currently all households receive a general household notification, regarding who is registered and who is eligible. Additionally, anyone who has provided an email address as an elector receives a digital poll-card and information about eligibility, and a text message if they have provided a mobile phone number, including a statement for May's local elections stating which nationalities are entitled to vote.

Nonetheless, there is a danger that some of the thousands of Brighton & Hove residents who are non-UK EU citizens, along with members of other traditionally underrepresented groups of residents, may not fully appreciate their democratic rights.

As non-UK EU citizens, such residents (unless they are citizens of the Republic of Ireland, Cyprus, or Malta) are not entitled to vote in British General Elections and, as a result, may not be aware that they are entitled to vote in British Local Elections. Additionally, they may well not realise they are entitled to stand in such elections.

Given the uncertainty over their futures, due to the threat posed by a possible UK exit from the EU, it is vital to avoid any confusion over their democratic rights. Other groups of residents may also benefit from a targeted campaign outlining their democratic rights.

It is therefore incumbent upon BHCC to specifically inform these residents of their democratic right to influence the make-up of the Council in the city they call their home.

