

Votes at 16

December 2012

Council Notes;

- 1.** There is currently 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds that are denied a vote in public elections in the UK.
- 2.** The votes at 16 campaign to lower the voting age is supported by thousands of young people across the UK and the Votes at 16 Coalition consists of a wide range of youth and democracy organisation
- 3.** Voting turnout for 18-24 year olds currently sits at 15%, 70+ 80%

Council Believes;

- 1.** 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live in and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizens
- 2.** Lowering the voting age to 16 would empower young people to be better engaged in society and influence decisions that will define their future
- 3.** People who can consent to medical treatment, work full time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces should have the right to vote
- 4.** Lowering the voting age will also help potential new students understand the importance of Union based elections and help increase voter turnout in all elections

Council resolves;

- 1.** To join the Votes at 16 Coalition
- 2.** To write to Jeremy Lafroy, Tristham Hunt, other local MPs and local media to inform them of this decision and ask them to support the campaign
- 3.** To liaise with local colleges
- 4.** To campaign to raise awareness of and support for Votes at 16 in the local area