



COUNCIL MEETING – 5 JULY 2018

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MOTION 3

MOTION 3: Make Votes Matter

Proposed amendment to be moved by Councillor Watts and seconded by Councillor Burgess.

[This Council notes –](#)

[People](#) ~~Voices~~ across the political spectrum have [differing views about](#) ~~raised concerns over~~ the First Past the Post voting system [and the Proportional Representation system](#).

The Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform publication “The Many, Not the Few - Proportional Representation & Labour in the 21st Century” ~~lays sets out many of the some~~ concerns: [its members have about the](#) First Past the Post [voting system](#). ~~elects governments and councils that don't match the votes cast and creates safe seats that discourage political engagement.~~

Many London boroughs had turnout lower than 40% at the recent local elections. These elections may have been the last council elections where EU voters could vote.

[Local authorities have no control over the voting system that is used at local elections.](#)

This Council [further](#) notes –

- That [the last Labour Government](#) ~~no party has done more to advance the case of Proportional Representation than the Labour Party,~~ introduced [ing the](#) Single Transferable Vote into Scottish local elections and the Alternative Member System into the Welsh Assembly, the London Assembly and the Scottish Parliament.
- That the Single Transferable Vote system is ~~already~~ used at local elections in Scotland and Northern Ireland. ~~and does better to elect councils representative of the votes cast, whilst maintaining the constituency link.~~
- That turnout at the [2017](#) Scottish local elections ~~was~~ [is noticeably](#) higher than [turnout at the 2018 local](#) elections in ~~the UK-England,~~ [with proportional representation playing a part in improving engagement.](#)
- [That at the recent local elections a government pilot of requiring voters to present photo identification before being able to vote disenfranchised thousands of people.](#)
- That this government has failed to guarantee the rights of existing EU citizens.

This Council believes –

- A vibrant and engaged local democracy is good for our community. ~~and that proportional representation helps deliver that.~~
- That EU Citizens should not lose their right to vote or to stand in local elections.

This Council resolves –

- To write to ~~Islington's MPs~~ the Prime Minister to ask ~~them~~ her to guarantee the full rights of EU Citizens, including their right to vote and stand in local elections; ~~express their support for the principle of proportional representation at Council Elections and retention of voting rights for EU citizens;~~
- To ~~contact~~ write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to make clear this Council's opposition to requiring voters to present photo identification before being able to vote, and to ask what plans the Government has to increase participation at local elections. ~~for a review of the First Past the Post voting system for local council elections.~~

The amended motion would read as follows:

This Council notes –

People across the political spectrum have differing views about the First Past the Post voting system and the Proportional Representation system.

The Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform publication “The Many, Not the Few - Proportional Representation & Labour in the 21st Century” sets out some concerns its members have about the First Past the Post voting system.

Many London boroughs had turnout lower than 40% at the recent local elections. These elections may have been the last council elections where EU voters could vote.

Local authorities have no control over the voting system that is used at local elections.

This Council further notes –

- That the last Labour Government introduced the Single Transferable Vote into Scottish local elections and the Alternative Member System into the Welsh Assembly, the London Assembly and the Scottish Parliament.
- That the Single Transferable Vote system is used at local elections in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- That turnout at the 2017 Scottish local elections was higher than turnout at the 2018 local elections in England.
- That at the recent local elections a government pilot of requiring voters to present photo identification before being able to vote disenfranchised thousands of people.
- That this government has failed to guarantee the rights of existing EU citizens.

This Council believes –

- A vibrant and engaged local democracy is good for our community.
- That EU Citizens should not lose their right to vote or to stand in local elections.

This Council resolves –

- To write to the Prime Minister to ask her to guarantee the full rights of EU Citizens, including their right to vote and stand in local elections;
- To write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to make clear this Council's opposition to requiring voters to present photo identification before being able to vote, and to ask what plans the Government has to increase participation at local elections.

