
**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE
HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2003**

**EX.212/03 CONSULTATION PAPER - THE MINIMUM AGE OF VOTING AND
CANDIDACY IN UK ELECTIONS**

Portfolio Health and Community Activities

Subject Matter

To consider a report from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (LDS.53/03) on a consultation paper from the Electoral Commission seeking views on whether the minimum ages for voting and standing for election should be reduced. The consultation had come about in response to a number of calls for change and views were being sought on nine questions raised in the document by 31 October 2003.

Summary of Options Rejected

None

DECISION

That the report be referred to the City Council on 9 September 2003 for a formal response to be made and the Executive suggests the following answers to the specific questions raised:-

Q1 - Do you think that lowering voting age, or allowing younger candidates to stand for election, might encourage young people to take part in elections?

Answer - No.

Q2 - Do you think that lowering the voting age, or the age for standing as a candidate, would increase the levels of trust between young people and politicians?

Answer - No, but Town and Parish Councils should be encouraged to set up youth councils.

Q3 - If you are a young person, teacher or parent - in your experience, is citizenship education changing young peoples' knowledge of and interest in elections and democracy?

Answer - This Council has introduced citizenship packages into local schools, run local democracy weeks and elected a young Mayor. In addition, a "don't vote, don't moan" campaign to encourage younger people to vote was successful.

Q4 - Do you want to see a change in the current minimum age for voting (18)? Why?

Answer - No

Q5 - Do you want to see a change in the current minimum age for standing as a candidate (21)? Why?

Answer - No

Q6 - If the voting age were to be reduced, what age do you think it should be reduced to? Why?

Answer - No comment.

Q7 - Would you advocate the same minimum age for all levels of election in the UK?

Answer - No comment.

Q8 - If the minimum age for standing as a candidate at UK elections were to be reduced, what age do you think it should be reduced to? Why?

Answer - No comment.

Q9 - Would you advocate the same minimum age for all levels of election in the UK?

Answer - No comment.

Reasons for Decision

In order to suggest to the City Council responses to the consultation document.