

My Vote

My Voice

How to get the most from talking to your councillor





Why talk to your councillor?

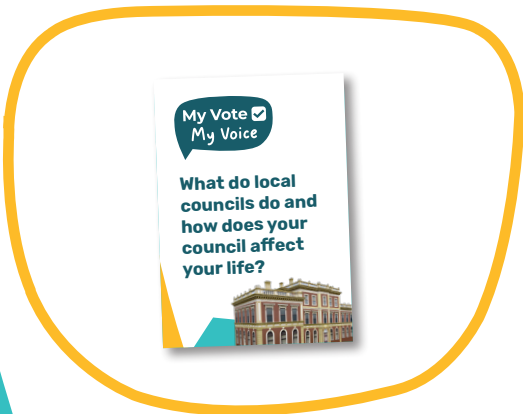
Your **councillor** represents you in the local council.



They can help with **local issues** and make sure your voice is heard.



Talking to your councillor can help improve services and make your area better for everyone.



To learn more about what councils do, see this additional guide:
<https://bit.ly/3XPor7h>



For help with contacting your councillor, see our **How to contact your councillor** guide: <https://bit.ly/4i470HX>



Some areas are also looked after by Combined Authority Mayors. Read our separate guide to learn more about this: <https://bit.ly/4knpzZ8>



What can you talk about?

You can talk to your councillor about things that affect you and your community, such as:



Social care – getting support at home or in the community.



Accessibility – make sure public spaces, transport, and shops are accessible.



Housing – finding and keeping accessible and safe housing.



Health services – making sure local services meet your needs.



You can also talk to your councillor about:

Local transport – bus routes, taxis, and road safety.



Leisure centres, parks and libraries – making sure they are accessible and kept in good condition.



Bins and rubbish collection – problems with collections or abandoned rubbish.



Community safety – anti-social behaviour, crime and streetlamps.



How to explain your issue clearly

Be specific – give examples and explain exactly how it affects you and others.



Ask for solutions – say what you think could help fix the problem.



What councillors can and cannot do

They can speak up for you at council meetings.



They can ask the council to fix problems.



They can help you understand council decisions and services.



They can work with other councillors and local groups to make changes.



They cannot make decisions on their own – they work as part of a team.



They cannot change national laws – they can only suggest changes to local policies.



They cannot always fix things quickly – some changes take time.



What if your councillor doesn't respond or can't help?

Ask for a meeting – some issues are easier to explain in person.



Try again – they may be busy, so send a follow-up message.



Talk to another councillor – there may be more than one for your area.



Get help from a local group – disability groups and charities can support you.



Raise the issue in other ways

– petitions, public meetings, and social media can help get attention.



You don't need to go alone!

Speaking up for yourself can sometimes feel stressful. If you want, you can bring someone with you.



Bring a trusted friend or support worker to come along to a meeting.



Invite your councillor to attend a group meeting. This can be an advocacy or community group you belong to.



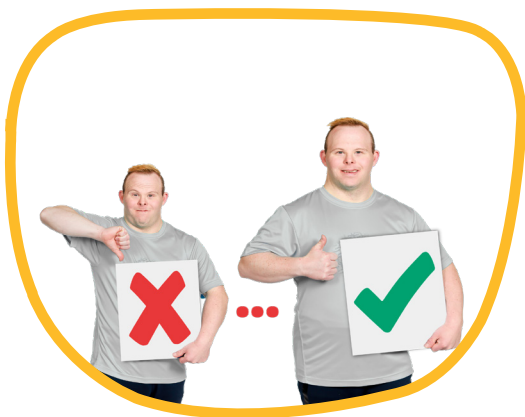
Most of the time, the more people involved the better. The councillor is more likely to do something if they know this affects many people.



Your voice matters!



Councillors need to hear from local people to do their job well.



Speaking up can help improve services for you and others.



If you need help, ask a trusted person to support you.



Check out our library of Easy Read resources to help you speak up:
<https://www.myvotemyvoice.org.uk/voting-resources/>

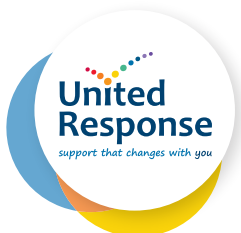


My Voice My Vote is on a mission to encourage people with learning disabilities and autistic people to vote in the Local Elections.

Visit www.myvotemyvoice.org.uk to find out more.

Get in touch:

info@myvotemyvoice.org.uk
#MyVoteMyVoice
#DisabledVotesMatterUK
#RegisterToVote!



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