

## **TABLED**

### **Item 13**

#### **COUNCIL MEETING – 13 OCTOBER 2008**

#### **Amendment to Motion F (2008/09)**

To insert the following words after the second paragraph:

This Council Welcomes:

- The Government's Governance of Britain White Paper that was published in July last year, which highlighted the importance of engaging young people as citizens, so they are able to take an active part in society.
- The Launch of the Youth Citizenship Commission in June this year which has been specifically tasked to run a consultation on whether the voting age should be lowered to 16.

To leave out the words:

'to call on the Government to establish the Youth Citizenship Commission with a clear remit to develop the necessary framework for reducing the voting age to 16'

**Proposed by: Cllr Demirci**

**Seconded by: Cllr Dogus**

**If the Amendment overleaf is passed – the Motion as amended will read:**

Motion F (2008/09)

“This Council notes:

- that 16 and 17 year olds can leave school, get married, have a full-time job, must pay taxes on their income, and can join the armed forces, but are not allowed to vote in public elections;
- that 16 and 17 year olds have been calling for the right to vote for many years through the Votes at 16 coalition;
- that disconnection between young people and the political establishment is growing.
- the continuing good work by Haringey’s Youth Council and its members

This Council believes:

- that young people are interested in politics and have valid views on issues that affect them;
- that 16 and 17 year olds are old enough to have the right to vote in public elections;
- that refusing to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote is likely to further depress turnout and encourage young people to give up on formal political structures.

This Council Welcomes:

- The Government’s Governance of Britain White Paper that was published in July last year, which highlighted the importance of engaging young people as citizens, so they are able to take an active part in society.
- The Launch of the Youth Citizenship Commission in June this year which has been specifically tasked to run a consultation on whether the voting age should be lowered to 16.

This Council resolves:

- to support the moves to lower the voting age for all public elections to 16;
- that the leader of the Council write to Bridget Prentice MP, minister in charge of reform in electoral administration, to show the Council’s commitment to pushing for votes for 16 and 17 year old and requesting that the government seriously considers decreasing the voting age”.