

# LOCAL DEMOCRACY

## WHAT IS IT?



Local Democracy is at the heart of our society. It provides individuals the right to get involved in their local government and to influence the way the Council provides its services.

## COUNCILLORS

- Elected by residents of the local area to serve 5-year terms
- Act as political spokesperson for their community
- Get involved in democracy by **contacting your Councillor**

## BECOME A COUNCILLOR

- **YOU** can run to represent community views in **your area**
- You must be 18 years old, a qualifying citizen, and meet a range of criteria about working and living in the local authority



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED...



### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Cabinet and Full Council are **open public meetings** and are available for residents to attend in person or online.



### SCRUTINY

Scrutiny Committees are open to the public and consider Council **services** and **key decisions** made by elected Members. RCT has **4** key scrutiny committees, each with their own yearly **Work Programme**. By getting involved, you can help populate these programmes.



### PETITIONS

Individuals, community groups, and organisations all have right to organise petitions to **raise issues of public concern**.



### QUESTIONS

All residents have the right to apply for **time to speak** in public meetings and ask elected Members questions about agenda items they are passionate about.



## 35.5%



In the 2022 Local Elections only 35.5% of RCT's residents participated, just over 1/3.

The easiest way people can engage in democracy is by **voting**. Having your say means you can make positive contributions to your community.

You can register to vote in Wales from **14**, and vote in local government and Senedd elections when you are **16**.

## YEPS

### YOUNG PEOPLE

The Council has a Youth Forum run by the Youth Engagement and Participation Service (YEPS). They offer a range of free activities for people aged 11-25, encouraging young people to get involved in their community.



### CITIZENS' PANEL



Our Citizens' Panel allows residents to participate more actively in democracy by sharing the needs, views, experiences, and expectations of the community with the Council. This is a great opportunity to shape the way the Council runs.