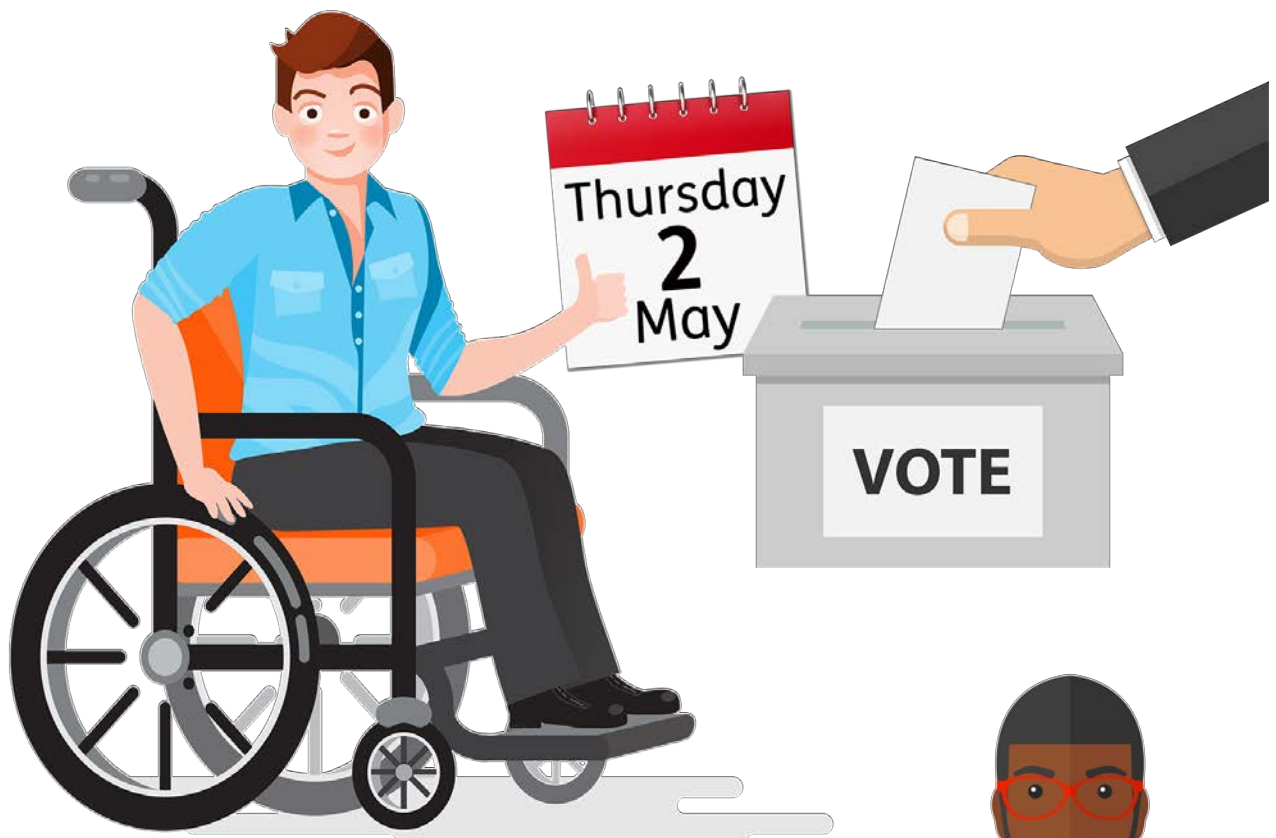


Local Elections May 2nd

Why people with learning disabilities should use their vote.



Free information sheet from
Easy-Read-Online Limited
April 2019



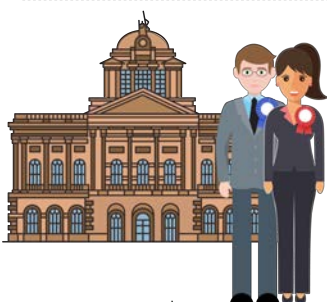
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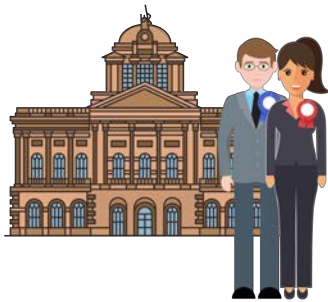
Introduction



There are local elections in England and Northern Ireland on Thursday May 2nd.



There are no local elections in Wales or Scotland this year.



You have a chance to vote for someone to be your local councillor.



Not about Brexit

The local elections should not be about Brexit.



Local councillors can't do anything about Brexit.



It's about your local services

Your local councillor has a say about many of the services for people with learning disabilities.



Your local councillor will help the council to decide:

- How much money is spent on social care. This is the money that pays for people's support at home



- How much money goes to services for people with learning disabilities, like day centres, advocacy groups and clubs



- How much money is spent on services like parks, libraries and sports centres



- What new buildings are built



- What to do about roads, pavements and buses



- How much you have to pay in Council Tax

Your local councillor



Your local councillor speaks up for your local area on your local council.



Your local council may be:

- A County Council - for your whole county



- A City Council - for your city



- A Town Council - for your town



It might be for an area which isn't a county and isn't a city.



Your local councillor isn't paid a wage.
They get an allowance to cover the costs of going to meetings.



When you vote, you are choosing the person you want to be your local councillor.



Almost all councillors belong to a political party.



We explain what the different political parties say on page 10.

Your local council



Your local council pays for many of the services that people with learning disabilities need.



Sometimes the council runs the services.



Sometimes they pay a company or organisation to run the services.



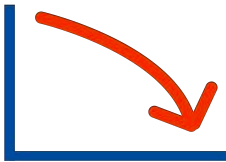
The council can decide what services are needed and where the services should be.

Money



Your local council gets its money from:

- Local people and businesses paying Council Tax
- The Government
- Other things like rent and charges



The amount of money that local councils have received from the Government has gone down a lot.



In 8 years, on average, councils have lost 60p out of every £1 that they used to get from the Government.



Many people think that this has caused the closure of local services.

What the parties say

In England

The Conservative Party

The Conservative Party says:

- Councils run by the Conservative Party pay less in Council Tax than other councils



- They are keeping local services running



- They are protecting parks and green spaces

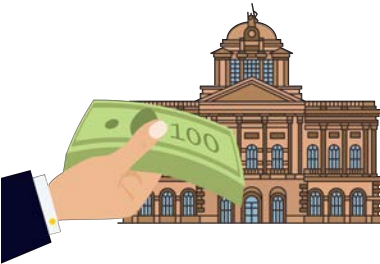


The Labour Party



The Labour Party says:

- It will give more power to local councils



- It will give more money to local councils



- It will set up a National Social Care Service



- It will make a big increase the money going to social care



The Liberal Democrat Party

The Liberal Democrats will:



- Provide more money to help poor and vulnerable people



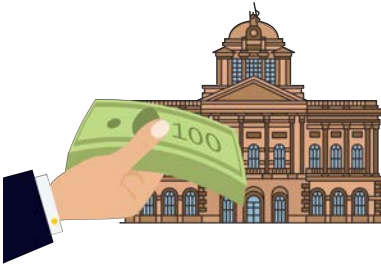
- Recruit more community police officers



- Build many new homes each year



The Green Party



The Green Party will give back to local councils that have been cut in recent years.



The Greens will also:

- Spend money on improving local services



- Improve parks and public spaces



- Provide more opportunities for people to walk, cycle and use public transport

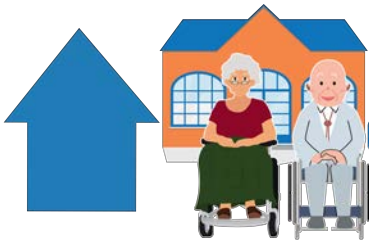


In Northern Ireland

DUP



The DUP has already provided an extra £1 billion for services in Northern Ireland.



They are developing City Deals to improve services in local areas.



They are improving play areas for children with disabilities. They are planning the first fully accessible water park in Europe.



Sinn Féin



Sinn Féin will work to make sure there is no hard border in the island of Ireland.



Sinn Féin is working for the whole of Ireland to be united and playing a part in Europe.

For more information

This document has been written by Easy Read Online Limited.



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How to Vote

You can get easy read information about voting from:



Web: **www.yourvotematters.co.uk**



Web: **www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-mencap/elections/easy-read-guide-voting-local-elections**

Easy read by **easy-read-online.co.uk**