

# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Council

## Agenda Item 85

**Subject:** Endorsement of the Rights of Nature Bill

**Date of meeting:** 29 January 2026

**Proposer:** Cllr Kerry Pickett  
**Seconder:** Cllr Mark Earthey

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### Joint Notice of Motion

#### Green & Brighton and Hove Independent Groups

This Council notes:

- 1) Current environmental laws and regulations are failing to prevent the destruction of nature, often simply regulating the rate of destruction.
- 2) 'Rights of Nature' is a growing international legal, political and social movement that aims to rethink our relationship with nature - from one of dominance to one of interdependency requiring a respectful, holistic and empathic approach. It can act as a catalyst to shift our thinking from an extractive economy towards a regenerative economy.
- 3) The UK Nature's Rights Bill introduces a transformative legal framework — the Integrated Rights Framework — that recognises nature as a rights bearing legal subject and embeds human and economic rights within ecological limits.

This council resolves to request the:

- 1) Council acknowledges the growing global movement of 'Rights of Nature' as a framework for rethinking its relationship with our city's ecosystems.
- 2) Council agrees that Brighton & Hove City Council signs the pledge<sup>1</sup> to endorse the principles of the Nature's Rights Bill changing the legal status of nature from being objects, property and resources to a legal subject with inherent rights.
- 3) Leader of the Council to write to the Government calling for the House of Commons to table the Nature's Rights Bill and embed the Integrated Rights Framework into UK law.
- 4) Council considers a 'bottom up' approach working with local communities, environmental groups and relevant stakeholders in order to implement the Nature's Rights initiatives.
- 5) Council considers working alongside local communities, bathers, surfers, marine conservation and environmental groups on a "Rights of the Coastline" charter.

## **Supporting Information:**

<sup>1</sup>[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCWr0kEEcG2p4XF1mqsv\\_XsHjBYK0Ae7cxadLorrDrITet9Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCWr0kEEcG2p4XF1mqsv_XsHjBYK0Ae7cxadLorrDrITet9Q/viewform)

<https://democracy.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=1106>  
UK campaigners launch bill to give nature legal rights | Environment | The Guardian

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caJkUW\\_NqyY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caJkUW_NqyY)

<https://student.sussex.ac.uk/news/article/69441-sussex-law-academic-makes-waves-in-parliament-on-the-nature-s-rights-bill>

[Could 2024 be the year nature rights enter the political mainstream? | Environmental activism | The Guardian](#)