

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

Seconded: 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 pledge¹ 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:

¹https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCW0kEEcG2p4XF1mqsv_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://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](#)