



## Exeter City Council

A meeting of **EXETER CITY COUNCIL** will be held at the **GUILDHALL, HIGH STREET, EXETER** on **TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022**, at 6.00 pm, at which you are hereby summoned to attend.

This meeting is open to the public and those addressing the Council under the public speaking provisions in agenda item 3, but any members of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact the Democratic Services Team [committee.services@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@exeter.gov.uk) in advance. Priority will be given to those addressing the Council under the public speaking provisions.

The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube.

[Democratic Meetings - YouTube](#)

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact John Street, Corporate Manager Democratic & Civic Support on 01392 265106.

The following business is proposed to be transacted:-

	Pages
1 Minutes	
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2022.	5 - 16
2 Official Communications	
3 Public Questions	
Details of questions should be notified to the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support at least three working days prior to the meeting - by 10am on Thursday 13 October 2022. Further information and a copy of the procedure are available from Democratic Services (Committees) (Tel: 01392 265115) with details about speaking at Council to be found here: <a href="#">Public Speaking at Meetings</a> .	

To receive minutes of the following Committees and to determine thereon:-

4 Planning Committee - 25 July 2022	17 - 40
5 Planning Committee - 5 September 2022	41 - 50
6 Strategic Scrutiny Committee - 29 September 2022	51 - 76
7 Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 6 October 2022	77 - 82
8 Combined Strategic Scrutiny and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 28 July 2022	83 - 88
9 Audit and Governance Committee - 27 July 2022	89 - 96

10	Audit and Governance Committee - 28 September 2022	97 - 102
11	Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee - 6 September 2022	103 - 106
12	Executive - 6 September 2022	107 - 118
13	Executive - 4 October 2022 Notice of Motion	119 - 128

14 Notice of Motion by Councillor Bennett under Standing Order No 6

**Making Votes Count with Proportional Representation**

Council notes:

- Within Europe, only the United Kingdom and authoritarian Belarus still use the archaic First Past the Post (FPTP) system for General and Local Elections. Whilst internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries.
- The UK's First Past the Post voting system curtails voter choice, making millions of votes ineffective, and leaving millions feeling unrepresented and unheard.
- MPs and other elected representatives would better reflect their communities, leading to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.
- PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Council believes that:

- The FPTP system has contributed to dangerous levels of distrust and disillusionment with our democratic processes and politicians.
- It is essential that faith is restored in our democratic system and that the public see Parliament as fairly reflecting their views.
- Our First Past the Post voting system is a significant barrier to restoring this faith and all but guarantees that the balance of opinion among the electorate is not reflected in Parliament.
- A system of Proportional Representation in which seats match votes and all votes count equally would help to rebuild public trust by ensuring that all political views are represented in Parliament in proportion to their level of public support.

Council therefore resolves:

- 1 To write to His Majesty's Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general and local authority elections.
- 2 To call upon Exeter's two MP's to push for a change to electoral law to permit Proportional Representation and to promote the matter for debate within Parliament.

15 Notice of Motion by Councillor Pearce under Standing Order No. 6

**Cost of Living Emergency Declaration**

This Council declares we are in a Cost of Living Emergency and calls on the Government to introduce an Emergency Budget, to take urgent action to protect the people of Exeter from further harm.

Council notes that:

- Energy costs have more than doubled since October 2021, from a unit cap of £1277 to £2500 currently for average households. Before this hike there were more than 6000 households in fuel poverty in Exeter.
- Food prices are soaring, some basic staples by as much as 20%.
- Inflation has soared above 10%, its highest level in 40 years.
- Personal Taxation is now at its highest level in 70 years yet public services continue to face a funding crisis.
- The real value of pay is falling at its fastest rate since records began.
- Universal credit has been slashed and there appears to be no prospect of an appropriate uprating of welfare payments for those most in need. Current proposals will see families, and others, plunged further in to hardship as they fail to keep pace with rising costs.
- In 2020/21 more than 4,000 children in Exeter lived in poverty.
- Meanwhile £11.8bn of public money has been lost to fraud through the Governments covid support schemes

Council therefore resolves to write to the Prime Minister, copying in our Exeter MP's, urging her to:

- Introduce an immediate Emergency Budget to protect children, families, and pensioners from the worst fall in living standards in generations.
- Cut business rates for small businesses.
- Cut the VAT rate on energy bills.
- Increase the support available to all claimants through the welfare and benefits system.
- Deliver on the calls made by UNISON, the NEU and other education unions to expand the free school meals programme to all families receiving universal credit or an equivalent benefit.

The Council believes that the Emergency Budget must include real help for residents and local businesses in Exeter.

16 Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order No 8.

A plan of seating in the Guildhall is attached as an annexe.

Date: Monday 10 October 2022

Karime Hassan MBE  
Chief Executive & Growth Director