



Exeter City Council

A meeting of **EXETER CITY COUNCIL** will be held at the **GUILDHALL, HIGH STREET, EXETER** on **TUESDAY 19 JULY 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 in advance. Priority will be given to those addressing the Council under the public speaking provisions.

The recording of the meeting will be uploaded onto YouTube as soon as possible.

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 Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings held on 19 April 2022 and of the Annual Meeting held on 17 May 2022.	5 - 26
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 14 July 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: Public Speaking at Meetings .	

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

4 Planning Committee - 25 April 2022	27 - 52
5 Strategic Scrutiny Committee - 16 June 2022	53 - 106
6 Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 30 June 2022	107 - 116
7 Combined Strategic Scrutiny and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 27 April 2022	117 - 146
8 Combined Strategic Scrutiny and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee - 6 June 2022	147 - 190

9	Harbour Board - 23 June 2022	191 - 196
10	Executive - 31 May 2022	197 - 306
11	Executive - 5 July 2022	307 – 332

Notice of Motion

- 12 Notice of Motion by Councillor Williams under Standing Order No. 6
Local Authority Remote/Hybrid Meetings

This Council notes that:

On 5 January 2022, the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) and Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) launched a petition calling on the Government to change the law to give Councils (ranging from County, Districts and Unitary Authorities, through to Town and Parish Councils) the freedom to hold remote meetings when local circumstances suit. This includes hybrid meetings.

This follows the unsuccessful High Court action in 2021 and the subsequent judgement that it was for Parliament to change the law not the courts - as indeed the devolved administrations have done in Wales and Scotland to allow for on-line meetings.

This Council believes that:

We do not wish to impose remote meetings on Exeter City Council, or indeed any Council. We should have the choice to decide how to run our meetings depending on local circumstances. We also accept that some meetings (for example full Council) are more suited to physical attendance.

You will be aware that the Government issued a call for evidence on 21 March 2021 in relation to remote meetings. We are still awaiting their response to the large number of submissions from local authorities, relevant organisations and the public.

The period of lockdown showed that remote meetings bring so many benefits to local democracy and residents, apart from the obvious public health safeguards. It is no longer just a response to Covid, although we are aware that some Councillors are still not able to attend meetings for health reasons either relating to them or their families.

The wider benefits are:

- Increased attendances at remote meetings by both Councillors and the public
- Significant cost savings for some Authorities arising from much less travel to meetings.
- The environmental benefits of less travel, particularly in the large County authorities.
- A better work-life balance.
- Improved equality of access to meetings for all and opening up opportunities for more people to stand for election as Councillors.

- More transparency and openness for the public to see Council meetings.
- An option to move meetings online where there are constraints, for example bad weather such as snow or flooding.

The Council resolves:

To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to express our support for the petition launched by ADSO and LLG on 5 January 2022 with regard to remote and hybrid meetings. We call on the Government to change the law to allow Councils the flexibility to hold such meetings when they deem it appropriate within agreed rules and procedures.

- 13 Decision of the Council's Shareholder Representative for Exeter City Living Limited on the acquisition of residential units at the Guildhall Shopping Centre. 333 - 338
- 14 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 11 July 2022

Karime Hassan
Chief Executive & Growth Director