



## Exeter City Council

A meeting of **EXETER CITY COUNCIL** will be held at the **GUILDHALL, HIGH STREET, EXETER** on **TUESDAY 22 JULY 2025**, at 6.00 pm, at which you are hereby summoned to attend.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Liz Smith, Democratic Services Officer on 01392 265425 or email [democratic.services@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@exeter.gov.uk).

The following business is proposed to be transacted:

- 1 Minutes  
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2025. Pages 5 - 22
  - 2 Official Communications
  - 3 Public Questions  
Details of questions should be notified to the Democratic Services at least three working days prior to the meeting - by 10am on Thursday 17 July 2025 via email: [democratic.services@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@exeter.gov.uk) Details about speaking at Council can be found here [Public Speaking at Meetings](#).
- To receive minutes of the following Committees and to determine thereon:
- 4 Exeter Harbour Board - 12 June 2025 Pages 23 - 38
  - 5 Strategic Scrutiny Committee - 5 June 2025 Pages 39 - 46
  - 6 Executive Committee - Special 19 June 2025 & Special 24 June 2025 and 8 July 2025 Pages 47 - 88
  - 7 Corporate Plan Report  
To consider the report of the Strategic Director for People and Communities. Pages 89 - 136
  - 8 Organisational transformation and Efficiency Projects - Request for a non-recurring budget

To consider the report of the Chief Executive.

Pages  
137 - 144

9 Joint Habitats Site Mitigation Strategy

To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Place.

Pages  
145 - 230

## Notice of Motion

- a) Notice of Motion by Councillor Hughes under Standing Order No. 6

### **Motion: Supreme Court Motion**

Council notes that:

The Supreme Court, in the case of *For Women Scotland v the Scottish Ministers*, ruled that the terms “man”, “woman” and “sex” in the Equality Act 2010 refer to ‘biological sex’, and that the Scottish Government’s effort to increase women’s representation on public boards therefore did not entail representation by trans women with a Gender Recognition Certificate, as it had intended.

A Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) allows trans people to change their birth certificate and their sex marker with HMRC. It is an illegal practice under the Gender Recognition Act 2004 for an employer to ask for an employee’s GRC.

Repeatedly misgendering someone, particularly a transgender person, could be considered a form of harassment and direct discrimination under the Equality Act 2010, although the law is still evolving around this and is currently still complex.

Interim guidance published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has suggested that trans women should not be permitted to use women’s facilities, and trans men should not be permitted to use men’s facilities, in workplaces and services open to the public. This interim guidance is currently in the process of being challenged by way of a claim for judicial review by the Good Law Project. If the claimants are found to be incorrect, then the submission is that the EHRC interim guidance is incompatible with articles 8 and/or 14 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

The Supreme Court judgement, and following interim guidance from the EHRC, has caused great anxiety, uncertainty, and fear for the trans, non-binary, and intersex communities. It has also encouraged open bigotry, and a further removal of safety measures for trans and non-binary people in workplaces and public spaces due to a lack of understanding of what this Supreme Court judgment actually means.

The law requiring respect for trans/non-binary rights has not changed. The provisions of the Equality Act 2010 on protected characteristics, associated case law, plus the Supreme Court has reaffirmed that trans people’s rights must be respected under the law.

A recent Galop survey found that two-thirds of LGBT+ respondents had experienced anti-LGBT+ violence or abuse, and abuse is particularly severe for trans people.

The LGBT+ community are more likely to experience disproportionately poor health outcomes, workplace conflict, homelessness, and difficulties accessing public services. This includes the LGBT+ community in our city of Exeter.

Council believes:

- Trans women are women, trans men are men, and non-binary and intersex people exist and deserve recognition.
- Everyone should be safe and free to be themselves, without fear of hostility or violence, and the erosion of trans rights threatens everyone's rights – especially women and girls.
- Nobody's life chances should be limited or determined because of their sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression.
- The trans community deserve clarity and reassurance on how their rights will be protected.
- Parliament must act to clarify how Gender Recognition Certificates interact with the Equality Act 2010, ensuring that Gender Recognition Certificates recognise trans people's gender identities for all purposes under the law.

Council resolves to:

1. Affirm our support for trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse residents and our commitment to defending their rights and dignity.
2. Instruct the Chief Executive / Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Women and Equalities to make clear the position of this council and to ask the following:
  - a. how existing legislation will protect the rights of trans, non-binary, and intersex people.
  - b. What new legislation is envisaged?
3. Not alter guidance for staff or the provision of services in light of the Supreme Court judgement whilst the EHRC guidance is interim and under consultation.
4. Not make any changes to current provision without first seeking legal advice, including checking in with the progress of The Good Law Project judicial review.
5. Commit to providing gender-neutral bathrooms and changing room facilities, such as those at ECC owned and designed St Sidwell's Point, separate to and including similar facilities for disabled people.
6. Commit to ensuring that Exeter is welcoming and inclusive to the LGBT+ community, embracing difference and ensuring action to ensure the safety of all residents.

#### 11 Notice of Motion by Councillor K Mitchell under Standing Order No.6

##### **Notice of Motion - Student Council Tax Gap**

"Council notes that:

- The Student Class N Council Tax exemption is a national policy that helps to support the accommodation costs of full-time students during their studies.

- It receives some reimbursement from the DCLG via the Settlement Funding Assessment to compensate for the loss of Council Tax income, but that the student adjustment was fixed in 2013/14 and has not been updated since.
- With the rise in Council Tax rates since 2013/14 and growing student numbers, the current cost of N exemptions within Exeter is estimated to be £10.12m of which £0.8m would be payable to Exeter City Council.
- In response to a recent parliamentary question, HMG has indicated that they intend to use the consultation on the Fair Funding Review 2.0 to review the adjustments to the funding formula for local authorities with higher student- exempt properties.

Council believes that:

- The review of the funding formula is a welcome first step, but that local authorities with high student populations, like Exeter, should not disproportionately bear the costs of student Council Tax exemptions.

Council resolves to:

- Participate fully in the consultation process on the Fair Funding Review 2.0, making the case for the funding gap caused by Class N exemptions to be filled and that future funding assessments should reflect changes in Council Tax rates and student numbers.
- Engage with similar authorities and others, locally and nationally, to jointly lobby HMG on this issue.”

Proposer – Cllr Kevin Mitchell  
 Seconder – Cllr Tammy Palmer

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

To receive questions from Members on any matter for which the Council has powers, duties or affects the city.

A plan of seating in the Guildhall is attached.

Date: Monday 14 July 2025

Bindu Arjoon  
 Chief Executive