



Exeter City Council

Exeter City Council's Committees and how they work

The Council is comprised of 39 Councillors (Members) who serve for four years. One-third of these Councillors' terms of office expire in each of three years out of four. Details of the political composition and Councillors can be found on the [City Council Website](#).

Councillors have been elected to represent and take decisions on behalf of residents on a range of important issues affecting the everyday life of the City. This includes how to provide homes and car parks; sports, art and leisure facilities; how to care for Exeter's environment and ensure the Council has enough funds to provide essential services. Councillors (also known as Members) meet to set priorities for the present and plan for the future.

A copy of the Council's decision-making arrangements can be found in this document.

Full Council

Council meets approximately once every six weeks at the Historic Guildhall in the High Street or the Royal Albert Memorial Museum to decide the Council's overall policies, strategies and to set the budget. The Council appoints the Lord Mayor who presides over Council meetings and appoints Councillors to sit on the various committees.

Executive

Exeter City Council operates a Leader and Cabinet Governance model. The Cabinet is known as the Executive, with the Council Leader (appointed by Full Council) and up to 9 other Councillors known as Portfolio Holders, who are responsible for particular areas aligning with the Council's key priorities and Corporate Plan. The Executive is responsible for the most significant and day-to-day decisions which are not delegated to officers.

Scrutiny Committees

Exeter City Council has two Scrutiny Committees:

- Strategic Scrutiny Committee; and
- Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee.

Their terms of reference can be found [here](#) by clicking on the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Regulatory Committees

The Council has three regulatory committees: Planning, Audit and Governance and Licensing Committees.

Their terms of reference can be found [here](#) by clicking on the appropriate Committee.

Public Speaking

All Council and committee meetings are open to the public to listen to proceedings. On some occasions, where confidential information is to be discussed, the press and public will not be able to stay for the whole meeting. When this type of information is about to be discussed, the Chair will ask members of the public and press to leave the meeting. The business that is dealt with in public is usually taken at the start of the meeting to make it easier for you to know when to attend.

Members of the public may also ask questions at ordinary meetings of the Council, the Executive and Scrutiny Committees. Please see [Public speaking at meetings](#).

The public may also speak either for or against planning applications at Planning Committee. Please see [Public speaking at Planning meetings](#).

Citizens' rights

Citizens' rights can be found in the Constitution under Article 3 – [Citizens and the Council](#).