

Public Information Sheet

Inspection of Papers - Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

You can find papers for all our meetings on our website at www.bristol.gov.uk.

Changes to how we hold public meetings

Following changes to government rules, public meetings including Cabinet, Full Council, regulatory meetings (where planning and licensing decisions are made) and scrutiny will now be held at City Hall.

COVID-19 Precautions at City Hall (from July 2021)

When attending a meeting at City Hall, COVID-19 precautions will be taken, and where possible we will:

- Have clear signage inviting you to check in to the venue using the NHS COVID-19 app or record your contact details for track and trace purposes.
- Provide public access that enables social distancing of one metre to be maintained
- Promote and encourage wearing of face coverings when walking to and from the meeting
- Promote good hand hygiene: washing and disinfecting hands frequently
- Maintain an enhanced cleaning regime and continue with good ventilation

COVID-19 Safety Measures for Attendance at Council Meetings (from July 2021)

To manage the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that any person age 16 or over attending a council meeting should follow the above guidance but also include the following:

- Show certification of a negative NHS COVID-19 lateral flow (rapid) test result: taken in the 48 hours prior to attending. This can be demonstrated via a text message or email from NHS Test and Trace.
- An NHS COVID-19 Pass which confirms double COVID-19 vaccination received at least 2 weeks prior to attending the event via the NHS App. A vaccination card is not sufficient.
- Proof of COVID-19 status through demonstrating natural immunity (a positive NHS PCR test in the last 180 days) via their NHS COVID-19 pass on the NHS App.
- Visitors from outside the UK will need to provide proof of a negative lateral flow (rapid) test taken 48 hours prior to attendance, demonstrated via a text message or email.

Reception staff may ask to see this on the day of the meeting.

No one should attend a Bristol City Council event or venue if they:

- are required to self-isolate from another country
- are suffering from symptoms of COVID-19
- have tested positive for COVID-19 and are requested to self-isolate



Members of the press and public who wish to attend City Hall are advised that you may be asked to watch the meeting on a screen in another room due to the maximum occupancy of the venue.

Other formats and languages and assistance for those with hearing impairment

You can get committee papers in other formats (e.g. large print, audio tape, braille etc) or in community languages by contacting the Democratic Services Officer. Please give as much notice as possible. We cannot guarantee re-formatting or translation of papers before the date of a particular meeting.

Committee rooms are fitted with induction loops to assist people with hearing impairment. If you require any assistance with this please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

Public Forum

Members of the public may make a written statement ask a question or present a petition to most meetings. Your statement or question will be sent to the Committee Members and will be published on the Council's website before the meeting. Please send it to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk.

The following requirements apply:

- The statement is received no later than **12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting** and is about a matter which is the responsibility of the committee concerned.
- The question is received no later than **5pm three clear working days before the meeting**.

Any statement submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper. If the statement is longer than this, then for reasons of cost, it may be that only the first sheet will be copied and made available at the meeting. For copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce or publish newspaper or magazine articles that may be attached to statements.

By participating in public forum business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded and circulated to the Committee and published within the minutes. Your statement or question will also be made available to the public via publication on the Council's website and may be provided upon request in response to Freedom of Information Act requests in the future.

We will try to remove personal and identifiable information. However, because of time constraints we cannot guarantee this, and you may therefore wish to consider if your statement contains information that you would prefer not to be in the public domain. Other committee papers may be placed on the council's website and information within them may be searchable on the internet.



During the meeting:

- Public Forum is normally one of the first items on the agenda, although statements and petitions that relate to specific items on the agenda may be taken just before the item concerned.
- There will be no debate on statements or petitions.
- The Chair will call each submission in turn. When you are invited to speak, please make sure that your presentation focuses on the key issues that you would like Members to consider. This will have the greatest impact.
- Your time allocation may have to be strictly limited if there are a lot of submissions. **This may be as short as one minute.**
- If there are a large number of submissions on one matter a representative may be requested to speak on the groups behalf.
- If you do not attend or speak at the meeting at which your public forum submission is being taken your statement will be noted by Members.
- Under our security arrangements, please note that members of the public (and bags) may be searched. This may apply in the interests of helping to ensure a safe meeting environment for all attending.
- As part of the drive to reduce single-use plastics in council-owned buildings, please bring your own water bottle in order to fill up from the water dispenser.

For further information about procedure rules please refer to our Constitution <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/how-council-decisions-are-made/constitution>

Webcasting/ Recording of meetings

Members of the public attending meetings or taking part in Public forum are advised that all Full Council and Cabinet meetings and some other committee meetings are now filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the council's [webcasting pages](#). The whole of the meeting is filmed (except where there are confidential or exempt items). If you ask a question or make a representation, then you are likely to be filmed and will be deemed to have given your consent to this. If you do not wish to be filmed you need to make yourself known to the webcasting staff. However, the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now means that persons attending meetings may take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on the meeting (Oral commentary is not permitted during the meeting as it would be disruptive). Members of the public should therefore be aware that they may be filmed by others attending and that is not within the council's control.

The privacy notice for Democratic Services can be viewed at www.bristol.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-processing-notices-for-resource-services

